

## 2007.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Consultation on Topics, 2021

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## Summary

### Preface



#### PREFACE

#### INTRODUCTION FROM THE AUSTRALIAN STATISTICIAN

Following the successful releases of quality data from the 2016 Census, our focus shifts to how we can inform Australia's important decisions post the next Australian Census of Population and Housing in August 2021. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is starting public consultation on the 2021 Census topics in order to inform ABS' recommendations for decision by the Commonwealth Government.

More than 95% of Australian households participated in the 2016 Census - testament to the community's appreciation for the unbiased, impartial statistics, data and insights produced from the Census. While we had a range of process issues and learnings from the 2016 Census, ABS maintained its unblemished record of data security and privacy. An independent assurance panel confirmed the high quality of the data, which has been released progressively since mid-2017.

The Census is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the ABS. The Census creates a rich national statistical backbone for the country alongside a significant work program of surveys, longitudinal studies, administrative data research and data integration. Every Census requires a significant public investment with the return being priceless. For example, data collected in the Census underpins decisions about the allocation of billions of dollars of Government funding to states, territories and local governments. It is critical to the setting of federal, state and territory electoral boundaries and feeds into decisions related to schools; childcare centres; roads; healthcare facilities; and senior centres. With increasing availability and ease of access, Census data is used by individuals and organisations in the public and private sectors to make decisions that lead to better targeting of investment, increased jobs, expanded service provision and more.

Since the first National Census in 1911, topics have been added, removed and changed to ensure Census data remains relevant and valuable. New questions add time to Census processes and costs. Many Census topics are considered essential to retain to support key decisions and provide an understanding of change over time. The topic review is a critical stage in planning for the next Census. It's important to ensure the Census investment continues to extract the most value and produces data which will continue to have meaning and benefit long after its release.

Recommendations to the Government for changes to Census topics are informed by the public consultation process, stakeholder engagement, testing and research of international practices. The ABS will ensure there is evidence and a demonstrated need to support new information being added to the Census. Being mindful of the burden on the population to complete the Census, we would also appreciate views on topics that could be removed or modified.

While the public consultation is open, we encourage data users and interested community members to share your views in a submission about what topics should be included in the next Census. This publication has full details on how to prepare your submission and frequently asked questions about this process. We appreciate your input and continued interest in the Census. And we thank you in advance for your time and effort in making your submission.

Finally, the ABS has been undertaking a comprehensive review of what went well in the operation of 2016 Census and has identified areas of improvement for 2021 as part of its planning process. ABS will communicate more about plans for the 2021 Census in future as this work progresses.

David W. Kalisch – Australian Statistician

3 April 2018

## Introduction

### INTRODUCTION

Feedback and collaboration will be critical in our preparation for the 2021 Census. Understanding your views will help us to deliver a Census for all Australians that best meets our nation's needs. As we work towards 2021, the ABS will continue to share information and seek views to inform our planning. This publication introduces the review of 2021 Census topics and provides comprehensive information to support participation in the public consultation which commences on 3 April 2018, and concludes on 30 June 2018.

The information provided includes:

- background and context about topics reviews
- topics collected on the 2016 Census
- emerging interest in new topics and changes to current topics
- how to participate in the public consultation to share your views
- factors impacting changes to Census topics
- the assessment criteria to be considered when preparing a submission
- the process following the public consultation to finalise the topics on the 2021 Census.

If you are interested in participating in the review of Census topics, we encourage you to review the content in this paper to help with preparing submissions. Well considered submissions will be critical to ensuring Census topics are suitable, important, and relevant.

## Background

### BACKGROUND

#### WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

The Census of Population and Housing has provided a snapshot of Australia for more than 100

years.

In 1911, Australia's first statistician, Sir George Handley Knibbs, said 'The Census gives us not only a vivid photograph of the present, but with past censuses, shows also the direction in which we are travelling and the rate of progress we are making.' The Census provides a reliable source of information for small population groups and geographic areas. The rich picture that emerges from the Census has complemented social and economic statistics programs for many decades.

The scope of the Census is all people in Australia on the Census reference day, excluding foreign diplomats and their families. Visitors to Australia are counted regardless of how long they have been in the country or how long they plan to stay. Australian residents out of the country on the reference day are out of scope of the Census; however they are included in official population estimates using overseas migration statistics.

## **HISTORY OF REVIEWING THE CENSUS**

Census data has played an important role in charting Australia's history and shaping its future. Since the first national Census in 1911, the ABS continues to review procedures and topics to deliver the high quality, timely information that Australia needs. Review and development between each cycle has included improvements for collecting, processing and distributing results.

Review of topics is a fundamental part of planning for each Census. A number of topics have been included on every Census creating a valuable time series of critical information. However, the full content has changed over time to reflect contemporary views and emerging needs with topics being included or excluded depending on relevance and importance at the time. In the 2011 and 2016 Census the decision was made to maintain the same list of topics. This means that the Census has maintained the same topics since 2006. The full history of topics collected on each cycle of the Census from 1911 to 2016 is included on the Downloads tab of this publication.

The submission process outlined in this paper will be an important step towards identifying and recommending changes in the 2021 Census which will contribute to the Census objective of delivering high quality data that is widely used to inform on areas of importance to Australia.

## **IMPORTANCE OF PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

The Census collects information relating to each person and household in the country but is not concerned with information about individuals as such. The Census is taken to provide information about the community as a whole and about groups within the community.

The public expects that the information they provide will be kept confidential and secure. Protecting privacy and confidentiality is critical to the ABS.

The ABS complies with the *Privacy Act 1988* and handles personal information in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles. The ABS also has strong legislative protections founded in the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* that safeguard the identity of a particular person or organisation. The *Census and Statistics Act* secrecy provision requires that all information, including personal information, provided to the ABS remains strictly confidential and is never released in a manner which is likely to enable an individual to be identified.

All ABS staff are legally bound never to release identifiable statistical information collected by the ABS to any external individual or organisation - including to courts and law enforcement agencies. This is a lifelong obligation which carries heavy penalties for breaches, including fines of up to \$25,200 or imprisonment for up to two years, or both.

## **TIME CAPSULE**

Since the 2001 Census all people have been given the option of having their name identified responses retained by the National Archives of Australia (Time Capsule). After 99 years, the name identified data will be made public for future generations.

This information will only be kept for those people who explicitly give their consent. For privacy reasons, the name identified information will not be available for any purpose, including a court or tribunal, within the 99 year closed access period.

## **COLLECTION OF NAME AND ADDRESS INFORMATION**

Name and address information has been collected from every Australian in all previous Censuses, and is a feature of international Census collections for sound statistical purposes.

The collection of information regarding name and address is considered essential for the conduct of an accurate and high quality Census. Name information is used for form management procedures and coding of household composition. Household address is used for geographic coding and is the basic unit used to distribute, collect and monitor the return of Census forms.

This information is also essential for the conduct of a high quality Post Enumeration Survey, which is used to measure the level of under-count in the Census and to estimate the resident population.

## **ADDING VALUE TO CENSUS DATA**

The value of Census data can be further maximised through integrating it with other public and private sector data sources. Important questions about Australian society can be addressed by safely bringing together information from different sources for statistical and research purposes.

Data integration is increasingly being utilised in important areas such as health, education, infrastructure, innovation and the economy to establish a stronger evidence base to support the key challenges facing Australians and future generations. The practice can aid the targeting of services to those most in need and reduces the administrative burden on the public by reusing data already provided for other purposes.

For more information about the ABS' data integration work, refer to the data integration section of the ABS website. This section includes case studies on use of Census data to understand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life expectancy; labour force outcomes of permanent migrants; and socio demographic characteristics of people accessing mental health services.

One example of a major data integration activity Census contributes to is the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP). This is a partnership among Australian Government agencies demonstrating how to maximise the value of existing public and private sector data for policy analysis, research, and statistical purposes. The MADIP combines existing data on health care, education, government payments, and personal income tax with the Census to inform on matters of importance such as improving employment options for people with disability.

The Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (ACL D) is another example of enhancing the value of Census data by building a rich longitudinal picture of Australian society. The ACL D brings together a random 5% sample of data from Censuses to create a longitudinal dataset. It provides a unique safe and secure data resource that allows researchers and governments to study a range of population groups over time.

Graphics and tables showing initial analyses from the 2011-2016 ACL D are available in Australians' journeys through life: Stories from the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, 2011-2016 (ABS cat. no. 2081.0), with plans to expand analysis to 3 waves of data (2006-2011-2016) in mid-2018. Microdata is available in Microdata: Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, 2011-2016 (cat. no. 2080.0).

Information from the Department of Social Services' Social Security and Related Information (SSRI) dataset was added to the 2006-2011 ACLD to create a new dataset (ACLD-SSRI). The linkage of the ACLD with the SSRI data provides valuable information on the characteristics of people receiving a benefit, both at the time of receipt of the benefit and five years previously.

Significant value has been and can be obtained from linking Census data over time and with public and private sector data. Future opportunities for further enhancing Census data will be considered during the preparation for the 2021 Census.

## **Census topics**

### **CENSUS TOPICS**

#### **WHAT IS THE 2021 CENSUS TOPIC REVIEW?**

The 2021 Census topic review aims to optimise Census data relevance by examining where some topics can be updated, modified or removed and potentially allow for new Census topics to be introduced, subject to evaluation and testing. A major part of this review is the public consultation phase which will be open from 3 April to 30 June 2018.

This section provides details of the current topics on the Census, emerging proposals for changes to topics, and details of what is required to prepare and lodge a submission during the public consultation. If you are interested in participating in the review, we recommend making yourself familiar with the content in this paper to consider the current status of topics, and criteria to be considered when building a case for change.

#### **THE TOPICS COLLECTED ON THE CENSUS**

An extensive consultation process for the 2016 Census identified topics for inclusion, exclusion and change. These were summarised in the submissions report (Cat. No. 2007.0.55.001 - Census of Population and Housing: Submissions Report, 2016). While it was decided that the topics to be collected in 2016 Census would remain the same as those in 2006 and 2011, the 2016 consultation influenced the need for some changes to questions and processing to allow for improvements in the Census data published. The details of topics included in the 2016 Census were published the year before the Census was conducted (Cat. No. 2008.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, Australia, 2016).

In preparation for the 2021 Census topic review, the ABS has considered the recommendations from the 2016 consultation process. Discussions are being held with various government agencies and non-government Census data users to identify emerging data needs. Learnings from this engagement and the 2016 recommendations have been used as the basis for the discussion on topics included in this publication. These directions have been described in further detail below.

Topics have been organised into the following broad themes:

- Population
- Sex and gender
- Households and families
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Income and work
- Unpaid work and care
- Education and training
- Disability and carers
- Housing
- Location

- Transport
- Cultural diversity
- Religion
- Other topics.

A brief has been prepared on each theme listed above. We recommend that you review the material provided on the brief related to your topics of interest and become familiar with the initial directions to assist you in considering whether a submission is required. Within each of these briefs more information is provided on 2016 questions; standards and classifications; the use of the information collected; other sources of information; and the initial direction for 2021 Census. Reduced versions of the briefs are also available via the Downloads tab of this publication.

## **CURRENT STATUS OF CENSUS TOPICS**

There are a number of topics collected on the Census which are based on a well-established need and are unlikely to be changed or removed. This includes the Census data used as the basis for the production of the estimated resident population, the official measure of the population of Australia. The variables used for this measure include place of usual residence, age and sex.

Other critical topics that are widely used by Census data users include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status, labour force status and country of birth. While these topics are unlikely to be changed or removed you are encouraged to submit suggestions where you see potential for their enhancement or expansion. For example, while there is not currently demand for change of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status topic, consideration is being given to options in the Census which may encourage greater participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. More details are in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples brief.

Stakeholder consultation has revealed potential new topics and changes to current topics that are a reflection of changes in the social and economic climate. Some of the emerging data needs include the capture of diverse family structures, such as shared care arrangements and households with multiple families living together. Details pertaining to these data needs can be found in the Households and families brief. Furthermore, there is the need to better understand population impacts due to the movements of service populations, such as tourists, and Fly-in-Fly-out/Drive-in-Drive-out workers. For more information visit the Location brief.

During the 2016 consultations and more recently, the concept of long term health conditions has been flagged as an area of interest. Additionally a new emerging area of interest is the collection of a Defence Force indicator, the motivation for both of these areas is to provide insight into better service planning and delivery. Both of these data needs are further clarified in the Other topics brief.

The 2016 Census introduced changes to improve measurements of religious affiliation, and to allow options for members of the population to identify their sex using non-binary options. Both topics continue to generate interest in further refinement, and individual topic briefs have been released to help inform submissions. For more information, refer to the topic briefs for Religion and Sex and gender.

In order to incorporate new or enhanced topics to meet the emerging data needs, there are some existing topics which are considered to be of lower priority and may be removed from the 2021 Census. In these situations, consideration is made about whether the Census is the most appropriate way to collect this data. For example, information on household internet access may be more appropriately collected elsewhere. This is because the rapidly changing technology enabling individual access to the internet may render a question asked every five years irrelevant shortly after or even before it is asked. This is further explored in the Housing brief.

Another topic which has been identified as a lower priority since the 2016 consultation process is the number of motor vehicles, as this information may be accessible through administrative data and could be obtained in a more timely manner than the Census. More information is included in

the Transport brief.

## Population

### POPULATION

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on population.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au)

### WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE 2016 CENSUS?

Population topics on the Census included:

- name
- sex
- date of birth or age
- children ever born.

### HOW IS THIS INFORMATION USED?

Questions about the name, age and sex of the population have been included since the first national Census in 1911. These questions are essential in assisting the ABS to meet its legislative requirement for estimating the size, age and sex profile of the population across Australia. Almost all decisions made by governments, businesses and local community groups depend on knowing the sex and age of the population located in each part of Australia.

Alongside this information, the ABS requests names to help people answer the right question for each person in the household, and to help us process the form correctly.

Females are also asked a question about the number of children ever born in order to better understand fertility.

For more information on the collection and use of data on sex, and the difference between the concepts sex and gender, read the Sex and gender topic brief.

### THE QUESTIONS ASKED ON THE 2016 CENSUS

- What is the name of each person including visitors who spent the night of Tuesday, 9 August 2016 in this dwelling?
- Is this person male or female?
- What is the person's date of birth or age?
- For each female, how many babies has she ever given birth to?

### DATA PRODUCED FROM THE 2016 CENSUS

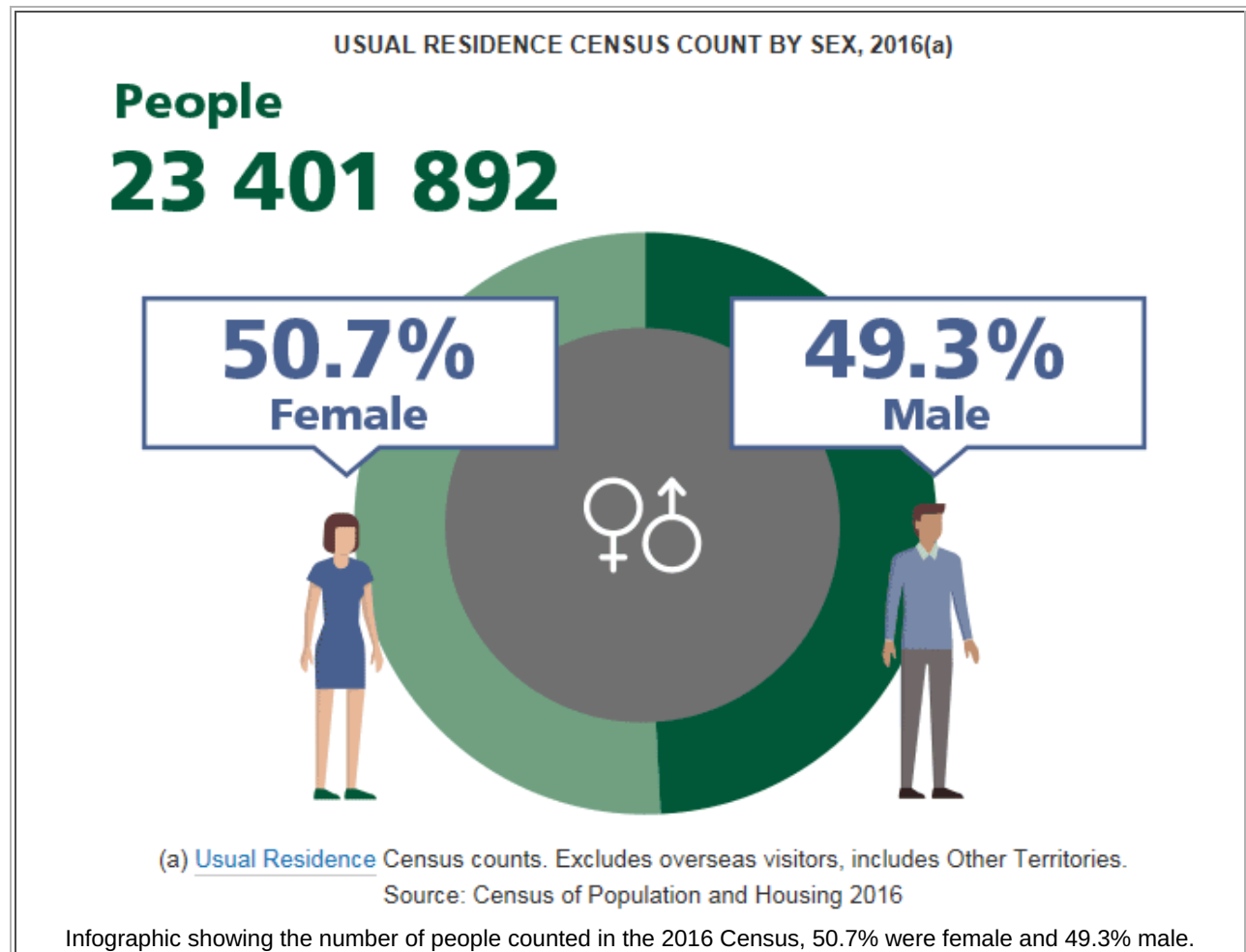
Questions about the population provide data in a range of formats including:

- Age (in single, five-year and ten-year ranges) (AGEP, AGE5P, AGE10P)
- Sex (SEXP)
- Number of children (in ranges) (TISP, TISRP).

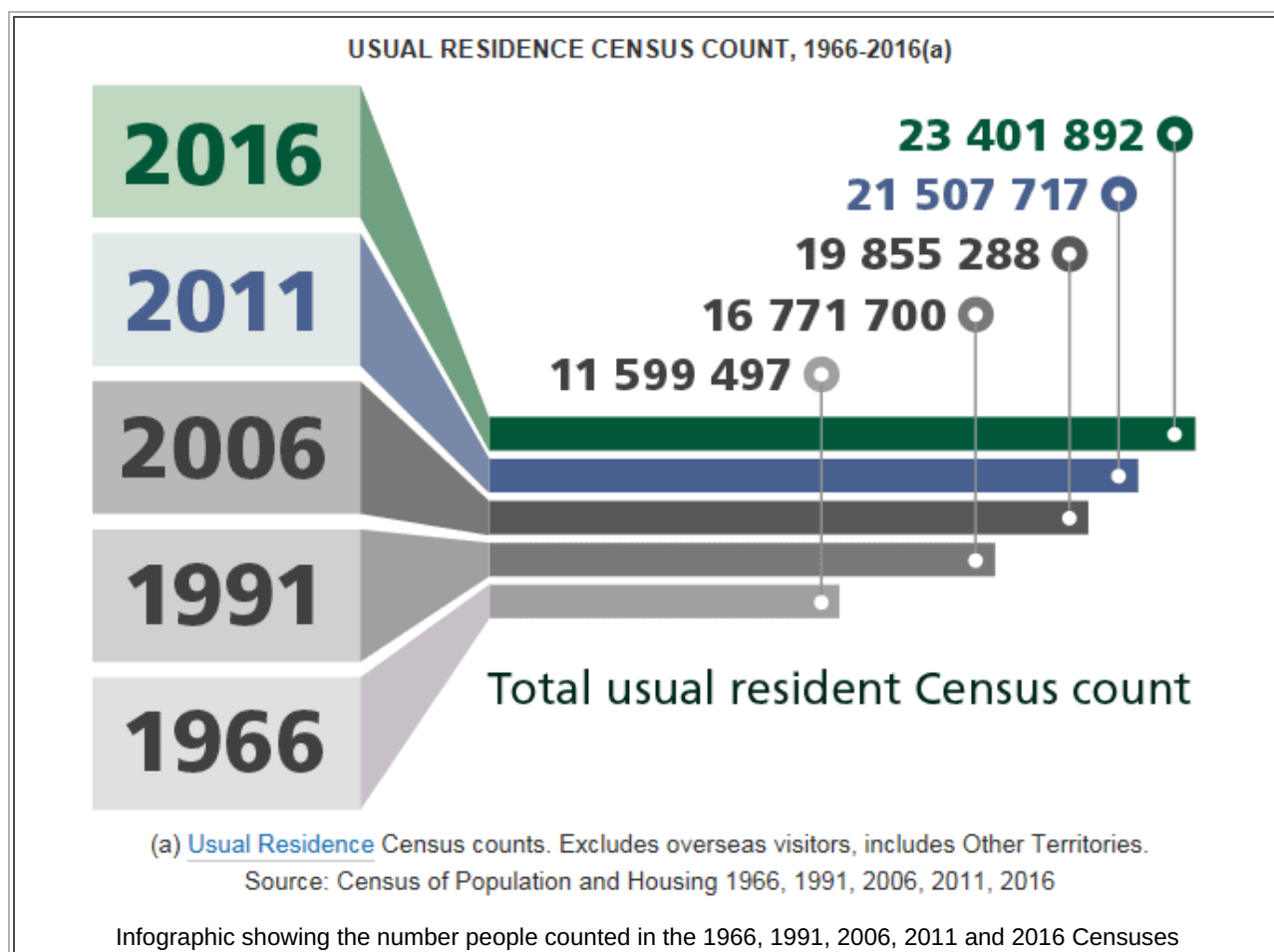
For more information view 2901.0 - Census Dictionary

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 CENSUS ON POPULATION

Source: 2071.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia - Stories from the Census, 2016







## STANDARDS

A number of standards are used by the ABS to classify statistics relating to population. These standards will be reviewed before the next Census.

1200.0.55.012 - Standard for Sex and Gender Variables, 2016

1200.0.55.006 - Age Standard, 2014, Version 1.7

1285.0.55.001 - Number of Children Ever Born Standard, July 2012

## WHAT HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU ABOUT THE 2021 CENSUS?

The ABS has undertaken initial discussions and reviewed feedback from the 2016 Census in preparation for this consultation.

Feedback from stakeholders has indicated that population is still a relevant and important topic. Questions pertaining to name, age and sex will continue to be asked in the 2021 Census.

The collection of names and addresses in the Census is a critical part of ensuring the quality and value of the Census.

Names are collected in the Census for a number of reasons, including to:

- assist householders completing the form to report the relevant information for each person;
- ensure the Census covers the entire population and data is of high quality; and
- enhance the value of Census data, by combining non-identifiable data with other national datasets to better inform government decisions in important areas such as health, education, infrastructure and the economy.

The ABS removes names and addresses from other personal and household information after data

collection and processing.

One point of interest has been around the children ever born question. From 1986 to 2006 the children ever born question was asked on a 10 year cycle (every second Census), however since the 2006 Census it has been included each Census. Early discussions with stakeholders have raised the potential of returning to a 10 yearly cycle after the 2021 Census. This change would place Australia on the same cycle as countries who conduct their Census every ten years enabling international comparison of fertility.

The ABS has previously received feedback regarding the sensitivities around this question. As a result in 2016, the statement noting that only live births should be included in this response was removed.

## **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC**

The ABS collects data on population through a number of different collections. Listed below is a selection of ABS publications. For the comprehensive list of ABS products, please visit the ABS website.

### **3101.0 - Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2017**

This product contains quarterly estimates of total resident population for states, territories and Australia. It includes estimates of the population by sex in five-year age groups; numbers (and some rates) of births, deaths, infant deaths, interstate and overseas movements; quarterly and/or annual time series spreadsheets; projected resident population for states, territories and Australia; and projected number of households for capital cities, states, territories and Australia.

### **3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2016**

This product released annually contains estimates of the resident population for areas of Australia. Estimates are provided for Statistical Areas Level 2 to 4; Greater Capital City Statistical Areas; Local Government Areas; Commonwealth and State Electoral Divisions; and states and territories of Australia according to the latest edition of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).

### **3235.0 - Population by Age and Sex, by Regions of Australia, 2016**

This annually released product contains the latest available estimates by age and sex of the resident populations of areas of Australia as at 30 June. These estimates are provided for Statistical Areas Level 2 to 4 (SA2s - SA4s); Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSAs); and states and territories of Australia according to the current edition of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).

### **3301.0 - Births, Australia, 2016**

This annual publication provides data on the number of births registered during the calendar year. Births data is presented by sex, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status and includes Total Fertility Rates and median age of mother and father (where known).

### **3310.0 - Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 2016**

Marriage and divorce statistics provide valuable information annually for the analysis of family formation and structure in Australia. Marriages data is presented by age; previous marital status; country of birth and relative country of birth of both males and females; type of celebrant; and whether couples live together prior to marriage. Divorces data is presented by age; duration of marriage at final separation and at date made absolute; country of birth; and number of children.

### **3412.0 - Migration, Australia, 2015-16**

This publication includes information on international migration into and out of Australia, internal migration within Australia and information on overseas-born residents of Australia. It is updated every year.

### **4159.0 - General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2014**

The General Social Survey (GSS) is conducted every four years and collects a range of

demographic information. The GSS aims to provide an understanding of the multi-dimensional nature of relative advantage and disadvantage across the population, and to facilitate reporting on and monitoring of people's opportunities to participate fully in society. Themes include how Australia has progressed on aspects of social capital such as participation, support, feelings of safety and trust.

What are your population data needs? Share your views with us on the most useful information we should collect in the 2021 Census. Make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS Consultation Hub.

## **Sex and gender**

### **SEX AND GENDER**

The ABS has collected data on sex since the first National Census in 1911. Within the general community, the terms 'sex' and 'gender' are often used interchangeably. However, although related, sex and gender are distinct concepts.

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census, and this topic brief provides a discussion on the collection and use of data on sex, and the difference between the concepts sex and gender.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au)

### **HOW IS INFORMATION ON SEX USED?**

Almost all decisions made by governments, businesses and local community groups depend on knowing the age and sex of the population located in each part of Australia. This data has been used for a range of purposes including population projections, estimates of life expectancy, family structure and gender comparisons.

Special procedures were introduced in the 2016 Census, marking an important step on a journey to collect representative statistics on sex and gender diversity in Australia. Our 2016 experience, along with further community consultation, will inform future practices around collection, classification, processing and release of sex and gender data.

### **COLLECTING SEX DATA ON THE CENSUS**

In 1911 the Census questionnaire identified sex as the topic being collected. This continued until 1996 when the question was changed to ask 'Is the person male or female?' For a majority of the population this question has been easy to answer, however the response categories make it difficult for some respondents to comfortably self-identify in a way they feel is accurate.

Collecting accurate information on either sex or gender in the Census context has many challenges. In the years leading up to the 2016 Census, the ABS worked with interest groups and agencies, as well as other countries, to consider and test how sex or gender might be collected in the Australian Census.

For the 2016 Census, special procedures were introduced for the first time to enable a respondent to complete an alternative online form containing three response options to the Sex question: Male, Female and Other (please specify). This online form was available to households or individual respondents on an opt-in basis by contacting the Census Inquiry Service or submitting an online assistance request. This special procedure was implemented because of uncertainty about how the

general public would respond to a question with an explicit 'other' option.

Some 1,260 people were considered to have provided a valid and intentional sex/gender diverse response (sex/gender because many did not give enough information to determine which). This is a rate of 5.4 per hundred thousand people - a very small proportion, and unlikely to be an accurate number of people with sex/gender other than male or female. While this count was not considered statistically representative, it was recognised as an important step forward and has provided insights which will help inform options for the 2021 Census.

The 2016 data showed a mix of write in options by Australians who identified as sex and/or gender diverse, as follows:

- 35% - did not provide a more descriptive term ('other, not further defined')
- 18% - another gender
- 17% - non-binary
- 13% - trans male or trans female
- 13% - trans or transgender
- 3% - intersex or indeterminate sex

For more information on procedures, limitations and additional data on sex and gender in the 2016 Census, refer to 2071.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia - Stories from the Census, 2016: Sex and Gender Diversity in the 2016 Census.

## **DRIVERS FOR THE CHANGES MADE IN THE 2016 CENSUS**

In November 2015 the Attorney-General's Department updated the Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender. The focus of the guidelines was on personal identification of individuals in records kept by Australian Government departments and agencies. Definitions and principles were outlined on the collection, use and amendment of sex and gender information in individual personal records. The guidelines recommended that where sex and gender information is collected, people should be given the option to select a sex or gender other than male or female if they wanted to.

In February 2016, the ABS released the Standard for Sex and Gender Variables (cat. no. 1200.0.55.012). The standard aligns with the Guidelines and includes concept, classification, and collection procedures for sex and gender including the addition of a third response category.

## **MEASURING SEX OR MEASURING GENDER?**

While the ABS defines the Census topic as sex, the 2016 question does not specifically mention sex or gender. As a result, the ABS acknowledges that the question in its current format collects either sex and/or gender. So how do they differ?

**Sex** refers to a person's biological characteristics. A person's sex is usually described as being male or female. Some people may have both male and female characteristics, or neither male nor female characteristics, or other biological characteristics. In this instance, an individual may identify themselves as intersex or report their sex is indeterminate. Sex is assigned at birth and is relatively fixed. However, a person's sex may change during their lifetime as a result of procedures commonly referred to as a sex change, gender reassignment, gender affirmation, transsexual surgery, transgender reassignment or sexual reassignment. Throughout and after this process, sex may be recorded as male, female or using other descriptors.

**Gender** refers to the way in which a person self-identifies their masculine or feminine characteristics. A person's gender relates to their deeply held internal and individual sense of gender and is not always exclusively male or female. It may or may not correspond to their

sex at birth and can be fluid over time.

Varying levels of understanding in the wider community about the difference between the concepts of sex and gender can affect how an individual may respond. We would like your input on how we collect this data in the 2021 Census. The topic is essential in assisting the ABS to meet its legislative requirement for estimating the size and profile of the population across Australia and will continue to be an important part of the 2021 Census. However, we'd like to consider whether there is a stronger driver for one concept to be collected over the other. Please consider making a submission and use the assessment criteria to share your views on the following:

- Should sex or gender be collected (or both)?
- What would be the drivers for collecting gender?
- What would be the implications of changing from collecting sex?

You can make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS consultation hub. Following the close of submissions, views will be summarised and options assessed via further user consultation, questionnaire development and testing. Understanding the impacts on data quality of changes will be important given the critical value of this topic.

## **SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

The ABS has undertaken initial discussions and reviewed feedback from the 2016 Census in preparation for this consultation. The Census has been able to publish estimates of same-sex couples living together on the basis of household relationship questions since the 1996 Census. The 2016 Census counted just under 46,800 same-sex couples living together in Australia. This represents a 39% increase since the 2011 Census, which counted 33,700 same-sex couples living together, and has more than quadrupled since 1996 (10,200 couples).

Recent changes to Australian Marriage Laws allowing registered marriages for same-sex couples will enable the registered marital status of same-sex couples to be collected, along with responses to questions on household relationships.

There are currently no questions on sexual orientation collected on the Census, however the inclusion of a question on this topic has been previously raised as a potential information need. Data on sexual orientation is currently available from two ABS surveys - see 4159.0 - General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2014 and 4326.0 - National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing: Summary of Results, 2007.

To better understand the data needs in regard to sexual orientation, we encourage you to share your views. Make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS Consultation Hub.

## **Households and families**

### **HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES**

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on households and families.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au)

## **WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE 2016 CENSUS?**

Household and family topics on the Census included:

- household and family relationships
- marital status
- persons temporarily absent on Census night.

## **HOW IS THIS INFORMATION USED?**

Information about the people in a household and their relationships to each other provides a national picture of the composition of Australian families. This is used for planning support services and infrastructure, such as educational institutions, hospitals and social services. It is also useful for understanding the adequacy and availability of housing.

Information about household and family relationships, and marital status, help establish whether there is a family unit living in a household and the structure of that family unit (for example, a couple family with dependent children or a single parent family). We can also identify whether there are a number of unrelated individuals living in the household (a group household) or where there is more than one family living in the dwelling. This provides insight into the different service needs of extended family structures or shared houses.

Not everyone who usually lives in a household will be there on Census night. To generate accurate estimates of the usual population in an area, questions are asked about people who are temporarily away. This allows for better planning of support services for local communities.

## **THE QUESTIONS ASKED ON THE 2016 CENSUS**

- What is the person's relationship to person 1/person 2?
- What is the person's present marital status?
- Were there any people away on the night of Tuesday, 9 August 2016 who usually live in this dwelling?

## **DATA PRODUCED FROM THE 2016 CENSUS**

Questions about households and families provide data on:

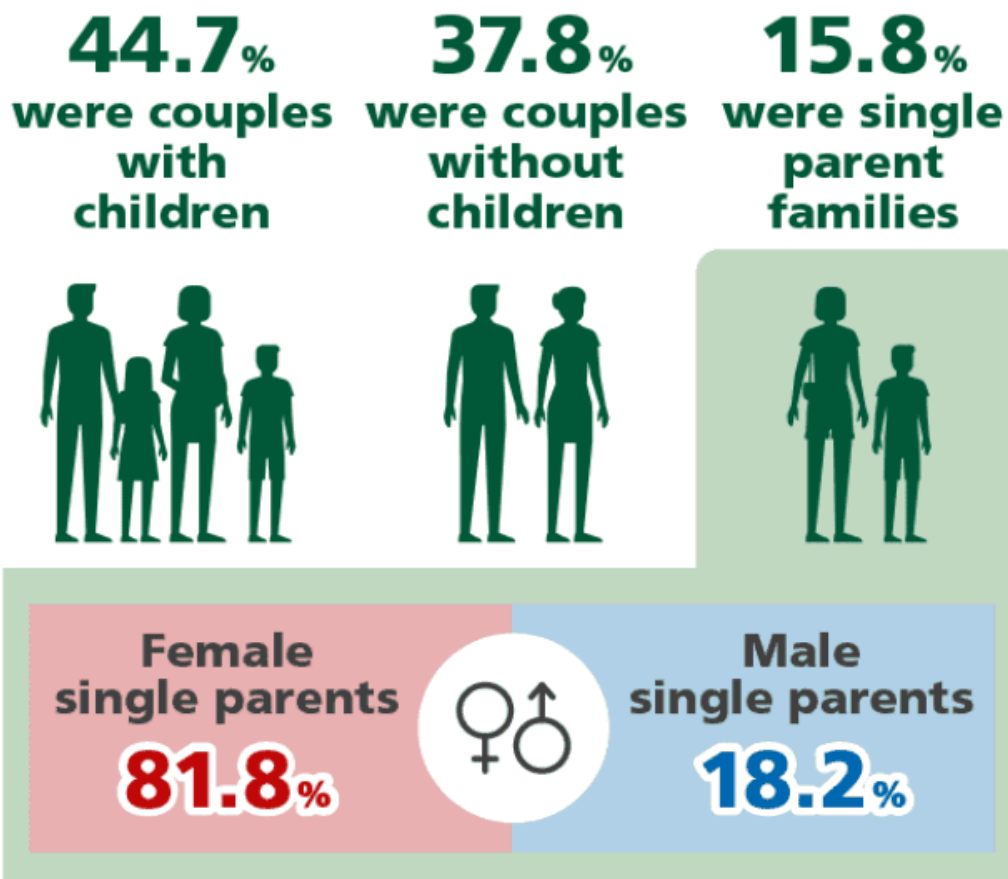
- Relationships in households including family connections, grandparent relationships, social marital status, same-sex couples etc. (FRLF, RLCP, RLGP, RLHP, MDCP, SSCF)
- Counts of persons, families and children (NPRD, FNOF, CACF, CDCF, CND CF, CPRF)
- Family and household composition and roles (FMCF, HHCD, FMGF, FBLF, HCFMD, HCFMF, RPIP, SLPP, CTGP, CTPP)
- Registered marital status (MSTP, IFMSTP)
- Person temporarily absent (CPAD, CPAF, SPLF, CDCAF, CDSAF, CNDAF)

For more information view 2901.0 - Census Dictionary

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 CENSUS ON HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES**

Source: 2071.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia - Stories from the Census, 2016

FAMILY COMPOSITION, 2016(a)

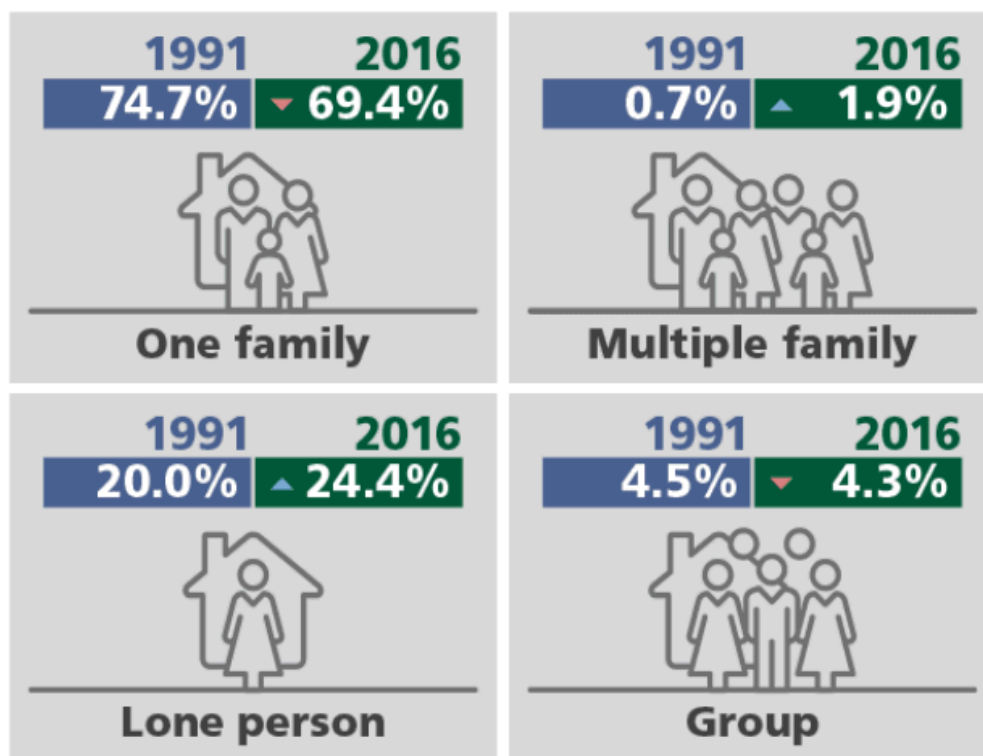


(a) Includes households in occupied private dwellings only. Excludes visitor only and non-classifiable households.

Source: Census of Population and Housing 2016

Infographic showing the composition of Australian families in 2016.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION OVER TIME - 1991, 2016(a)



(a) Includes households in occupied private dwellings only. Excludes visitor only and non-classifiable households.

Source: Census of Population and Housing 1991, 2016

Infographic showing the changes in household composition between 1991 and 2016.

## **STANDARDS**

The ABS uses the standard below to classify statistics relating to households and families.  
1286.0 - Family, Household and Income Unit Variables, 2014

## **WHAT HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU ABOUT THE 2021 CENSUS?**

The ABS has undertaken initial discussions and reviewed feedback from the 2016 Census in preparation for this consultation.

Initial feedback from stakeholders has indicated that data relating to the structure and composition of the family and household are relevant and important topics to be included on the 2021 Census. We have heard that there is potential to enhance these topics to better meet national data needs.

With the introduction of the Marriage Amendment (Definition and Religious Freedoms) Act 2017, the ABS will review relevant questions to ensure that same sex couples who are now legally recognised as married in Australia are able to be captured and represented on the Census.

Initial feedback indicates that there is also a growing area of interest in the representation of diverse family structures in Australia. There is, for example, a need to capture situations where a child is not staying in the household on Census night due to shared custody arrangements. Furthermore, data users have expressed an interest in improving the information captured from complex household structures such as multiple families living in a single house and blended families.

Providing data which better reflects the circumstances of these family situations helps providers plan how they can deliver relevant support services and infrastructure at a local area level.

This consultation is an opportunity for you to provide your views on what information on households and families should be collected on the 2021 Census.

## **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC:**

The ABS collects data on households and families through a number of different collections. Listed below is a selection of ABS publications as well as other relevant sources. For the comprehensive list of ABS products, please visit the ABS website.

6224.0.55.001 - Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, June 2017

This publication presents information about the labour force status and other characteristics of families from June 2013–June 2017. Information is also provided on the number and age of children in the family. This publication relates to the number of families rather than the number of persons. Estimates are provided for the number of children aged 0–4 years, 5–9 years and 10–14 years in families. Children are normally outside of the scope of the labour force survey but are included in this publication because of the focus on the labour force status of families.

4442.0 - Family Characteristics and Transitions, Australia, 2012-13

This publication presents data on household and family composition including demographic information, labour force participation and family types. The Family Characteristics topic provides information about the composition of households and families, and the characteristics of people within them, to better understand how families are changing and how to provide support to them. It also provides an insight into family formation and dissolution, and how expectations regarding marriage and childbearing may be changing over time.

3310.0 - Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 2016



This annual publication provides data and information about marriages registered and divorces granted in Australia in 2016 on a state or territory of registration basis rather than a state or territory of usual residence.

The publication presents statistics on the number of marriages registered, crude marriage rates, median age at marriage, age-specific marriage rates, previous marital status, use of marriage celebrants, country of birth of those marrying, and living arrangements for couples prior to marriage.

Divorce statistics in this publication provide state, territory and national level data for the number of divorces granted, crude divorce rates, ages at marriage, separation and divorce, age-specific divorce rates, divorces involving children, duration of marriage prior to divorce, and applicants for divorce.

#### 4159.0 - General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2014

The General Social Survey (GSS) is conducted every four years and collects a range of demographic information including country of birth and year of arrival. The GSS aims to provide an understanding of the multi-dimensional nature of relative advantage and disadvantage across the population, and to facilitate reporting on and monitoring of people's opportunities to participate fully in society. The survey was last conducted in 2014.

Themes include how Australia has progressed on aspects of social capital such as social, civic and community participation, support, feelings of safety and trust. The GSS also collects overall life satisfaction and data on people with a mental health condition, people with disability, recent and other migrants, people living in one parent families, and those with different sexual orientations.

#### Household, Income and Labour Dynamics (HILDA) survey

The Melbourne Institute runs the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey. This longitudinal panel survey collects valuable information about economic and personal well-being, labour market dynamics and family life. It aims to tell the stories of the same group of Australians over the course of their lives. This study collects information on many aspects of life in Australia, including household and family relationships, income and employment, domestic activity, volunteering, life satisfaction, health and education.

### **TECHNICAL AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

#### 3236.0 - Household and Family Projections, Australia, 2011 to 2036

This release contains projections of households, families and living arrangements of persons for Australia, the states, territories, capital cities and balances of state for the period 2011-2036. The projections are not intended as predictions or forecasts, but are illustrations of growth and change in the population that would occur if the assumptions about future living arrangements of Australia's population were to prevail over the projection period.

#### 1286.0 - Family, Household and Income Unit Variables, 2014

ABS Family, Household and Income Unit Variables are used in ABS surveys and the Census of Population and Housing. These variables are used to produce an accurate statistical picture of the structures and transitions of Australian families, and contribute to measures of economic wellbeing and housing utilisation and affordability. Standards for these variables provide definitions of concepts, methods of data collection, derivation procedures and output formats for use in all relevant ABS and external statistical collections. The variables include relationship in household and between families, family and household composition, social and registered marriage and income unit composition.

#### 2900.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the Census and Census Data, Australia, 2016

This publication provides information to help people use and interpret 2016 Census data. The articles 'Temporarily Absent People', 'Family Composition' and 'Grandparent Families' include additional information on specific concepts relevant to the topics outlined in this brief.

What are your household and family needs? Share your views with us on the most useful information we should collect in the 2021 Census. Make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS Consultation Hub.

## **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples**

### **ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES**

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au)

### **THE QUESTIONS ASKED ON THE 2016 CENSUS**

Respondents can identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in the Census by how they answer the question:

- Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

There are further opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to share their cultural background through responses to the following questions:

- Does the person speak a language other than English at home?
- What is the person's ancestry?

### **HOW IS THIS INFORMATION USED?**

The Census is the key data source for the determination of estimates and projections of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. There are no other data sources that provide a picture of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population over time for this purpose. Census data is also used in conjunction with deaths data to provide a high quality measure of Indigenous life expectancy. A sample of records is linked between Censuses to produce the Australian Longitudinal Census Dataset. Commencing with the 2006 Census, the Australian Longitudinal Census Dataset is providing new insights into the dynamics and transitions that drive social and economic change over time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Census remains the only comprehensive source of local area data for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. As one of the most widely used statistical sources for this population group the data produced from the Census guides the allocation of government funding and planning both nationally and for targeted services and programs.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people use the information from the Census to shape the decisions for their community. The information is used to plan what services are needed, strengthen business cases to secure financial support, or reflect changes within the community such as increases in educational achievement.

The 2021 Census will mark 50 years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples being included in the official estimates of the Australian population, following the amendments to the Constitution

Act after the 1967 referendum. Since the 1971 Census, there has been a clear upward trend in the number of people identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The 2016 count of 649,171 represented an increase of 18% from the 2011 Census.

## **DATA PRODUCED FROM THE 2016 CENSUS**

Questions about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin provide data on:

- Indigenous Status (INGP)
- Indigenous Household Indicator (INGDWTD)
- Ancestry (1st, 2nd and multi response) (ANC1P, ANC2P, ANCP)
- Language Spoken at Home (LANP)

## **CENSUS DATA QUALITY AND THE UNDERCOUNT**

While every effort is made to count everybody in the Census, some people are missed. The number of those missed is measured by the net undercount. Consistent with the pattern in previous Censuses, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people missed in the 2016 Census was considerably higher than the rest of the population. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the net undercount in 2016 was 17.5% (137,750 persons) compared to 1.0% for the whole population.

The ABS is committed to improving participation in the 2021 Census and ensuring the Census better reflects the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. We will build stronger partnerships and work closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in urban, rural and discrete communities, to identify ways to improve participation and coverage.

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 CENSUS ON ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES**

Source: 2071.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia - Stories from the Census, 2016

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION, 2016 (a)

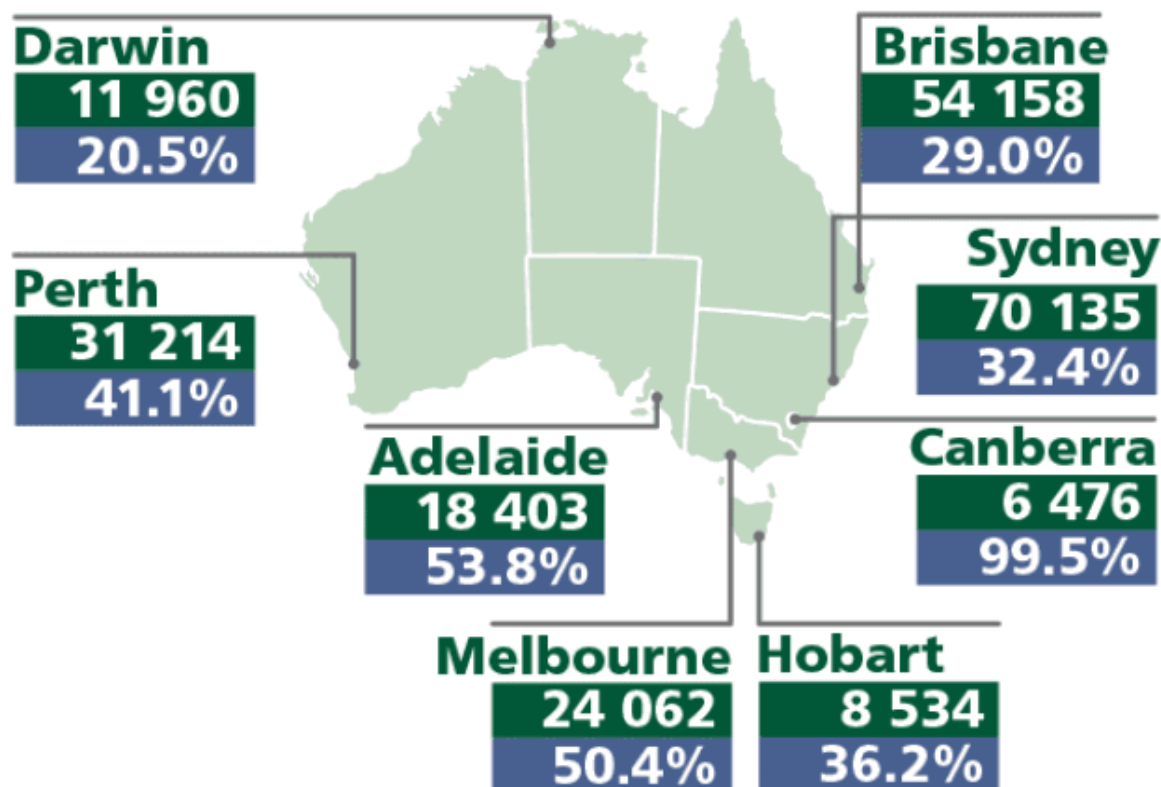


(a) [Usual residence](#) Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors. Includes Other Territories.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2016

Infographic showing 649,171 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia, 2.8% of the total population

PROPORTION OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE LIVING IN CAPITAL CITIES, 2016 (a)



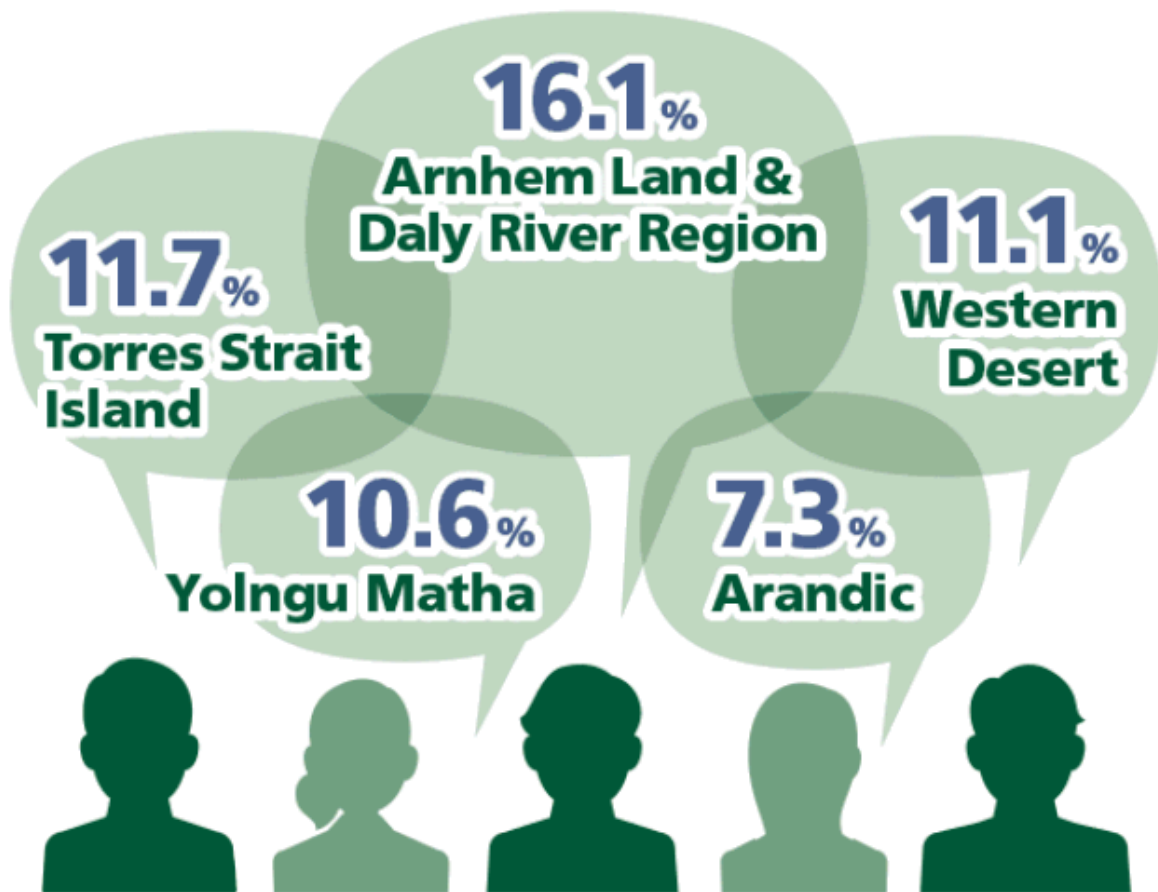
- No. of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within capital city
- Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within capital city

(a) [Usual residence](#) Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors. Includes Other Territories.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2016

Infographic showing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within each capital city and as a proportion of the state/territory total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in 2016

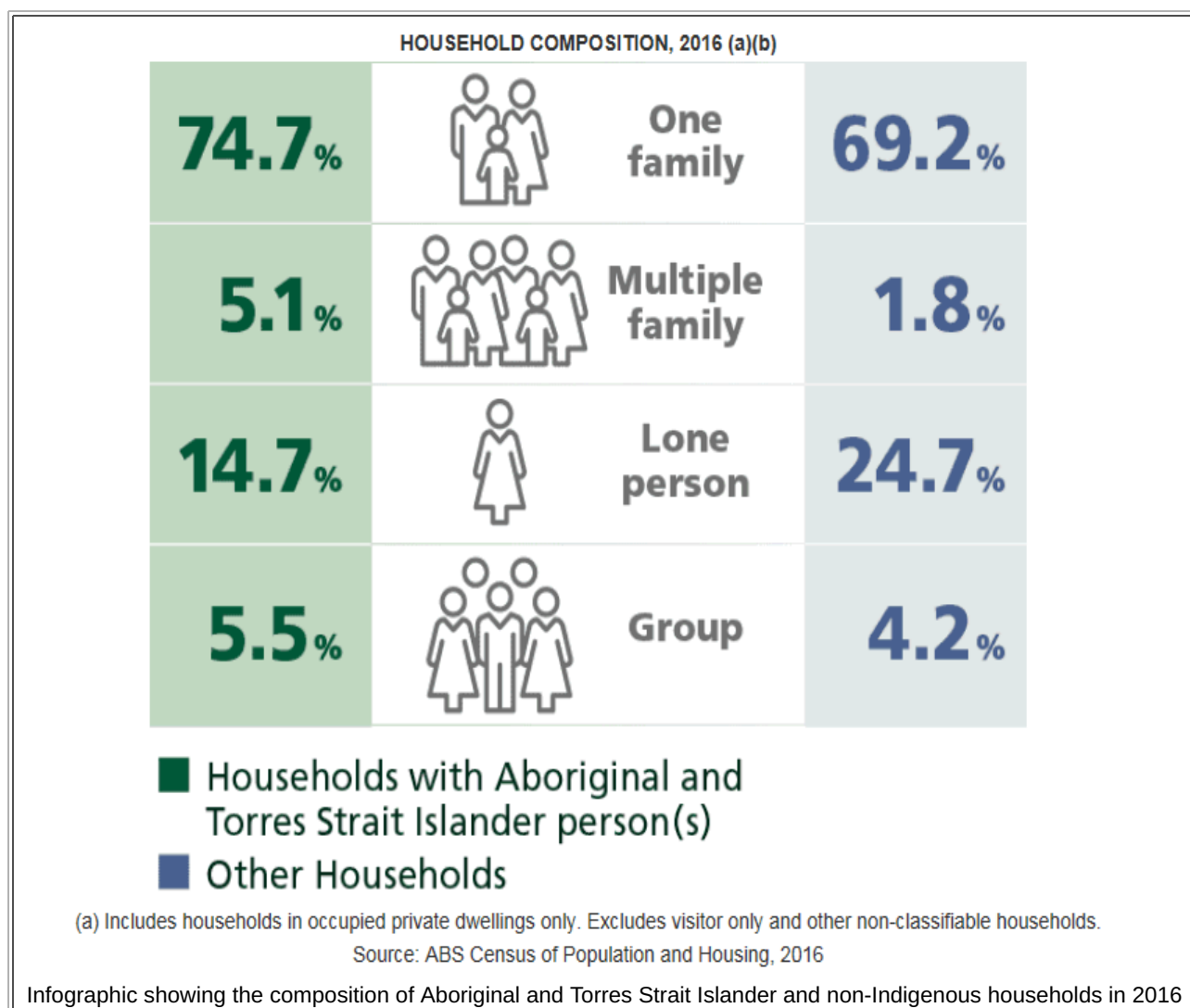
TOP FIVE AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE GROUPS SPOKEN AT HOME, 2016(a)



(a) Usual residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors. Includes Other Territories.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2016

Infographic showing the top five Indigenous language groups spoken by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in 2016



## STANDARDS

A number of standards are used by the ABS to classify statistics relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples:

1200.00 - Indigenous Status Standard, 2014

1200.055.005 - Language Standards, 2016

1200.055.009 - Ancestry Standard, 2014, Version 2.1

## WHAT HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU ABOUT THE 2021 CENSUS?

The ABS has undertaken initial discussions and reviewed feedback from the 2016 Census in preparation for this consultation.

The existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status question will continue to be collected on the 2021 Census.

The ABS is actively speaking with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and representatives on how Census participation can be improved for the 2021 Census.

We have heard that increasing the relevance of what is asked in the Census may encourage greater participation. One suggestion has been to recognise the connection with culture, language and country by enabling respondents to provide more information about their identification with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups. The ABS is keen to hear suggestions from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and data users on whether this would improve participation

in the Census, and whether this would provide valuable information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC**

All ABS household surveys ask the question, 'Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?' Listed below is a selection of ABS publications that focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data as well as other relevant sources. For the comprehensive list of ABS products, please visit the ABS website.

### **4714.0 - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2014-15**

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) is run every six years. The NATSISS collects information from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in non-remote and remote areas, including discrete communities. It covers a broad range of social subject matter including culture and cultural identity, social networks, housing, health-related topics, employment and education.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities maintain their cultural heritage by passing on their knowledge, arts, rituals and performances from one generation to another, speaking and teaching languages, protecting cultural materials, and protecting sacred and significant sites. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can identify themselves through land areas, their relationship to others and their language and stories, which may be expressed through ceremony, the arts, family, religion, and sport.

### **4727.0.55.001 - Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2012-13**

As part of the Australian Health Survey, the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (AATSIHS) collects information from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in non-remote and remote areas, including discrete communities.

It combines the existing ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) together with two new elements - a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (NATSINPAS) and a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Measures Survey (NATSIHMS).

Topics covered include long-term health conditions; health risk factors; and selected social and emotional wellbeing indicators and health measurements.

### **3238.0 - Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026**

This publication contains estimates and projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population based on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing for Australia and the states and territories, by sex and five-year age groups, for the period 2001 to 2026. The projections are based on assumptions on past and future fertility, mortality and migration. It also includes summary measures such as projected births and deaths, as well as detailed notes on the assumptions used.

### **4433.0.55.005 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with a Disability, 2012**

This article compares the prevalence of disability among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people, using data from the 2012 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.

## **NON ABS SOURCES**

There are also a number of external sources to the ABS where information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait people is collected. Below is one example.

### **Footprints in time - The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children**

'Footprints in Time' is the name given to the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children, which is conducted by the Department of Social Services. It follows the development of around 1,700



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families across urban, regional and remote Australia. It is one of the largest longitudinal studies of Indigenous people worldwide.

What are your Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data needs? Share your views with us on the most useful information we should collect in the 2021 Census. Make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS Consultation Hub.

## **Income and work**

### **INCOME AND WORK**

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on income and work.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au)

### **WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE 2016 CENSUS?**

Income and work topics on the Census included:

- income
- labour force status
- status in employment
- hours worked
- self-employed - number of employees
- occupation
- industry of employment.

### **HOW IS THIS INFORMATION USED?**

Questions on the Census about income and work provide insight into Australian society and the performance of the economy.

Income data provides an indication of living standards within various household types, across different areas of Australia. Employment and unemployment figures can highlight how many people are working or looking for work at a local level across specific population groups. Occupation and industry of employment can be used to plan education and other services. For example, understanding how many health care professionals work in rural areas can highlight where shortages exist and influence programs to better meet community needs.

Workplace address information is collected to better understand how people travel to work. For more about the information collected on workplace addresses, refer to the Transport topic brief.

If you are interested in questions asked about unpaid work, read our Unpaid work and care topic brief.

### **THE QUESTIONS ASKED ON THE 2016 CENSUS**

- What is the total of all income the person usually receives?
- Last week, did the person have a job of any kind?
- In the main job held last week, was the person: Working for an employer/ Working in own

business?

- Was the person's business: Unincorporated/Incorporated?
- Does the person's business employ people?
- In the main job held last week, what was the person's occupation?
- What was the employer's business name?
- What are the main tasks that the person usually performs in that occupation?
- What best describes the industry or business of the employer at the location where the person works?
- What are the main goods produced or main services provided by the employer's business?
- Last week, how many hours did the person work in all jobs?
- Did the person actively look for work at any time in the last four weeks?
- If the person found a job, could the person have started work last week?

## **DATA PRODUCED FROM THE 2016 CENSUS**

Questions about income and work provide data on:

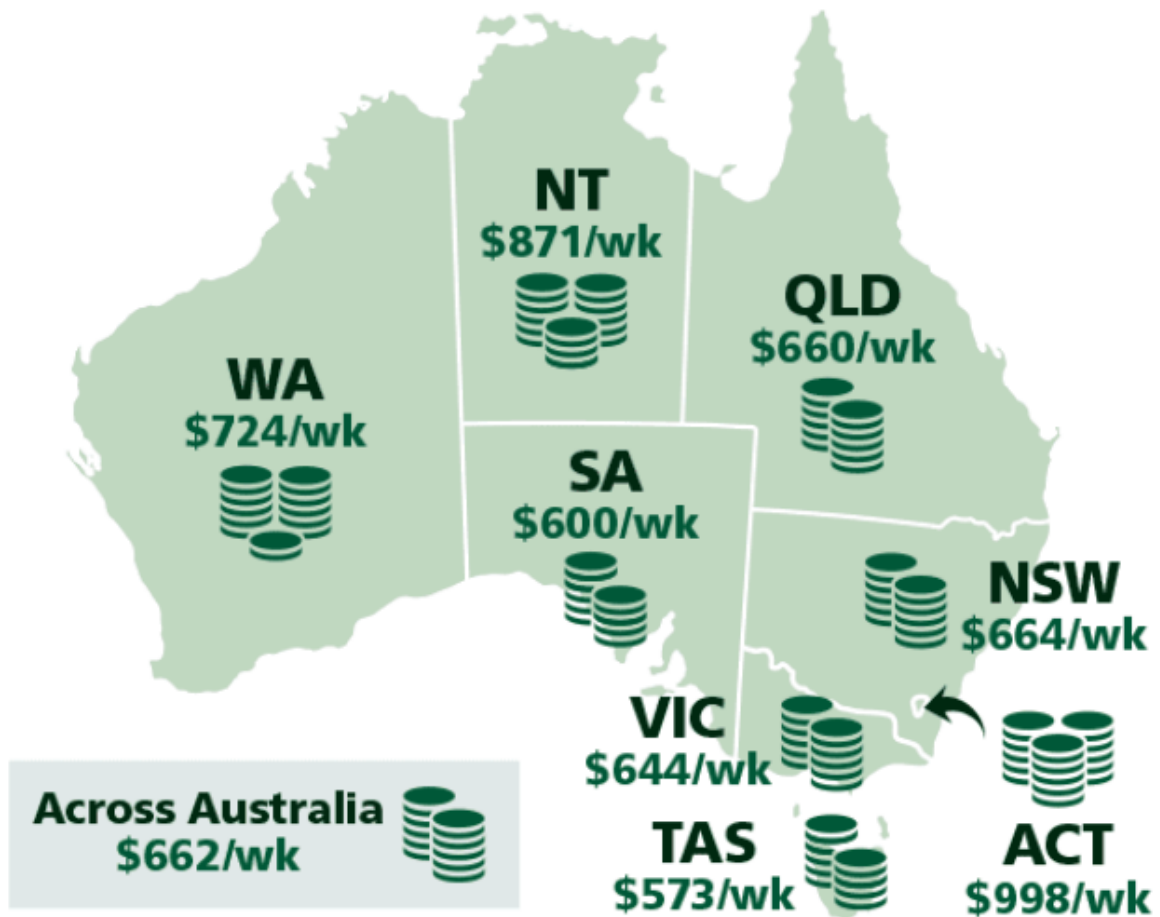
- Personal, family and household income (INCP, HINASD, HIND, HIED, HIDD, FIDF, FINASF, FINF)
- Labour Force Status (LFSP, LFHRP, LFSF, EETP)
- Number of Employees for those that are self-employed (EMPP)
- Occupation (OCCP)
- Industry of Employment (INDP)
- Hours Worked (HRSP, HRWRP)
- Status in Employment (SIEMP)

For more information view 2901.0 - Census Dictionary

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 CENSUS ON INCOME AND WORK**

**Source:** 2071.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia - Stories from the Census, 2016

MEDIAN PERSONAL INCOME PER WEEK, 2016(a)



(a) Median personal [income](#) has not been adjusted for inflation.

Source: Census of Population and Housing 2016

Infographic showing the median personal income reported in each state or territory.

## Top four occupations

### Males

Sales assistants  
(general)

**170 168**



**1**

Truck drivers

**143 710**



**2**

Electricians

**113 458**



**3**

Carpenters  
and joiners

**101 134**



**4**

### Females

Sales assistants  
(general)

**355 843**



Registered nurses

**197 124**



General clerks

**186 529**



Receptionists

**146 698**



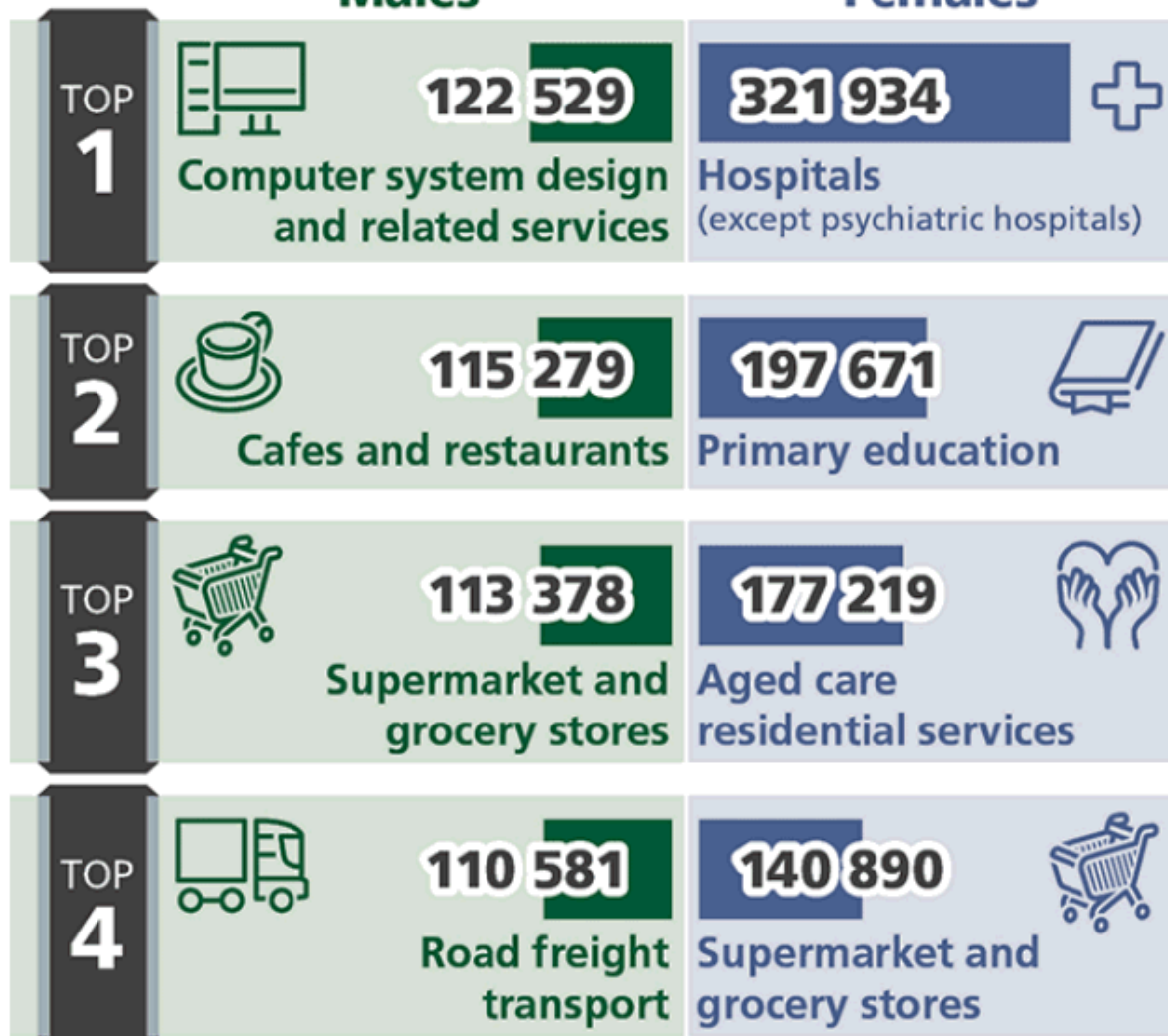
Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing

Infographic showing the top four Occupations for males and females.

## Top four industries of employment

### Males

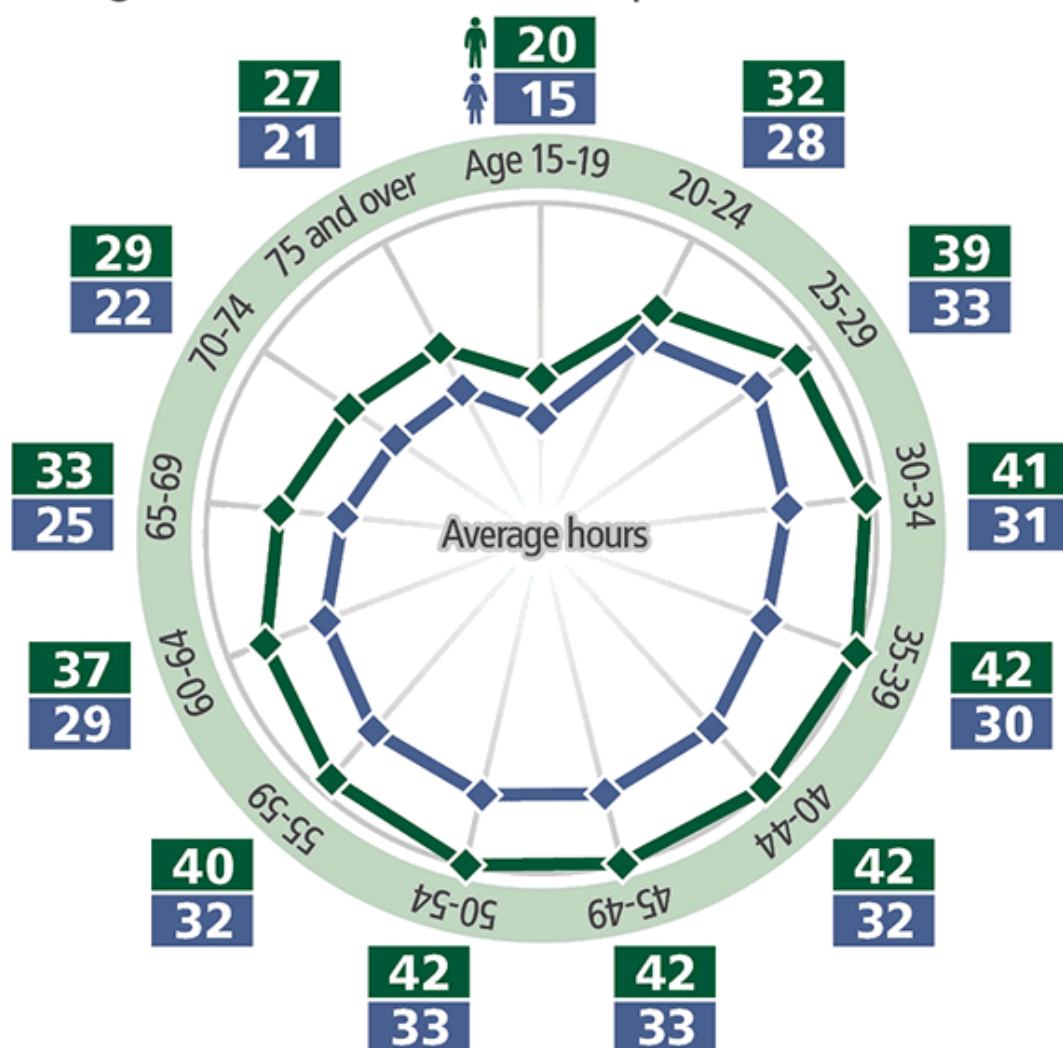
### Females



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing

Infographic showing the top four industries of employment for males and females.

## Average hours worked in week prior to Census



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing

Infographic showing the Average hours worked in week prior to Census for males and females by age groups.

## STANDARDS

The ABS uses the standards below to classify statistics relating to labour force and income. Classifications of industry and occupation are also used for defining occupations and the industries of employment:

1287.0 - Standards for Income Variables, Jun 2015

1288.0 - Standards for Labour Force Statistics, Issue for Dec 2014

1220.0 - ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2013, Version 1.2

1292.0 - Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (Revision 2.0)

## WHAT HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU ABOUT THE 2021 CENSUS?

The ABS has undertaken initial discussions and reviewed feedback from the 2016 Census in preparation for this consultation.

Feedback from stakeholders has indicated that income and work are critically important topics to include on the 2021 Census.

The work topic encompasses a number of data outputs. These include items such as industry of employment, occupation, hours worked and status in employment. These data items make up the core work topic the Census collects. The work data from Census is vital to government economic modelling and will continue to be collected on the Census. Knowing how many people work in different jobs and industries in particular areas provides the information required on skill shortages and training needs so that jobs for the future can be planned.

Understanding the sources of a respondent's income, such as government pensions, allowances, investment income, wages and superannuation, has been noted by some stakeholders as a way to better understand income paths and patterns of various populations in Australia. This information may be useful to support planning for population segments who rely on government assistance, as an example.

This consultation is an opportunity for you to provide your views on what income and work information should be collected on the 2021 Census.

## **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC**

The ABS collects data on work and income through a number of different collections. Listed below is a selection of ABS publications and other relevant sources.

A key data collection for Income and Work is the Survey of Income and Housing (SIH). SIH is conducted every two years as a standalone survey and combine with Household Expenditure Survey every three cycles (six years). Detailed user guides on SIH and the combined SIH and HES are included in the technical and supporting documentation section below. In addition, comprehensive microdata is available on the ABS website.

### **6523.0 - Household Income and Wealth, Australia, 2015-16**

This publication features key information about household income and wealth from the Survey of Income and Housing 2015-16. Tables and commentary show the distribution of income and wealth across the population, over time and by various household characteristics (e.g. income and wealth quintiles, main source of income, wealth, household type, tenure and employment status).

### **6530.0 - Household Expenditure Survey, Australia, Summary of Results, 2015-16**

The Household Expenditure Survey (HES) collects information about all sources of income, wealth, housing and expenditure from residents in private dwellings in Australia (excluding very remote areas). The HES also collects detailed information about financial stress.

### **6524.0.55.002 - Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2011-2015**

This information paper based on data sourced from the Australian Tax Office and presents regional data on the number of income earners, amounts they receive, and the distribution of income. Data is available for income from employment, own businesses, investments, superannuation and annuities and any other income excluding government pensions and allowances.

### **6202.0 - Labour Force, Australia**

The Labour Force Survey is the leading source of data for monitoring Australia's labour market conditions, and produces the most authoritative and recent estimates of labour market information, including employment and unemployment. Labour force statistics are published monthly by the ABS.

### **6227.0 - Education and Work, Australia, May 2017**

The Survey of Education and Work provides annual information on a range of key indicators of educational participation and attainment of persons aged 15-74 years, along with data on people's transition between education and work.

### **4159.0 - General Social Survey 2014**

The General Social Survey (GSS) aims to provide an understanding of the multi-dimensional

nature of relative advantage and disadvantage across the population, and to facilitate reporting on and monitoring of people's opportunities to participate fully in society. The survey collects information on various aspects of work and income including occupation, main duties and hours worked. The next GSS will be conducted in 2019.

#### Household, Income and Labour Dynamics (HILDA) survey

The Melbourne Institute runs the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey. This longitudinal panel survey collects valuable information about economic and personal well-being, labour market dynamics and family life. One portion of HILDA collects a measure of time spent in domestic activity.

### **TECHNICAL AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

#### 6503.0 – Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2015-16

This user guide contains details about the combined cycle of Survey of Income and Housing and the Household Expenditure Survey conducted in 2015-16. It includes information about the purpose of the survey, the concepts and contents, and the methods and procedures used to collect the data and derive the estimates.

#### 6553.0 - Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2013-14

This user guide contains details about the non-HES cycle of the Survey of Income and Housing conducted in 2013–14. It includes information about the purpose of the survey, the concepts and contents, and the methods and procedures used to collect the data and derive the estimates.

#### 2900.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the Census and Census Data, Australia, 2016

This publication provides information to help people use and interpret 2016 Census data. The articles 'The 2016 Census and the Labour Force Survey' and 'Place of Work' include additional information on specific concepts relevant to the topics outlined in this brief.

What are your income and work data needs? Share your views with us on the most useful information we should collect in the 2021 Census. Make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS Consultation Hub.

## **Unpaid work and care**



## **UNPAID WORK AND CARE**

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on unpaid work and care.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au)

### **WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE 2016 CENSUS?**

Unpaid work and care topics on the Census included:

- unpaid care of children
- unpaid care, help or assistance due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person
- unpaid work - domestic activities
- unpaid work - voluntary work for an organisation or group.

For more information view 2901.0 - Census Dictionary

### **HOW IS THIS INFORMATION USED?**

Questions on unpaid work and care are answered by people aged 15 years and over. They are separate from employment questions. The questions cover various types of unpaid work and care.

The Census information collected about people's responsibilities at home provides insights into how individuals and families balance paid work and education with other important aspects of their lives, such as family and community commitments.

The information gathered can be used to plan local facilities and services, such as child care and support for carers.

Participation in voluntary work is a measure of how we contribute to society and provides an indication of social connection within communities.

Our understanding of how different cultures and family structures manage these responsibilities can be enriched through consideration of other data collected such as cultural diversity.

### **THE QUESTIONS ASKED ON THE 2016 CENSUS**

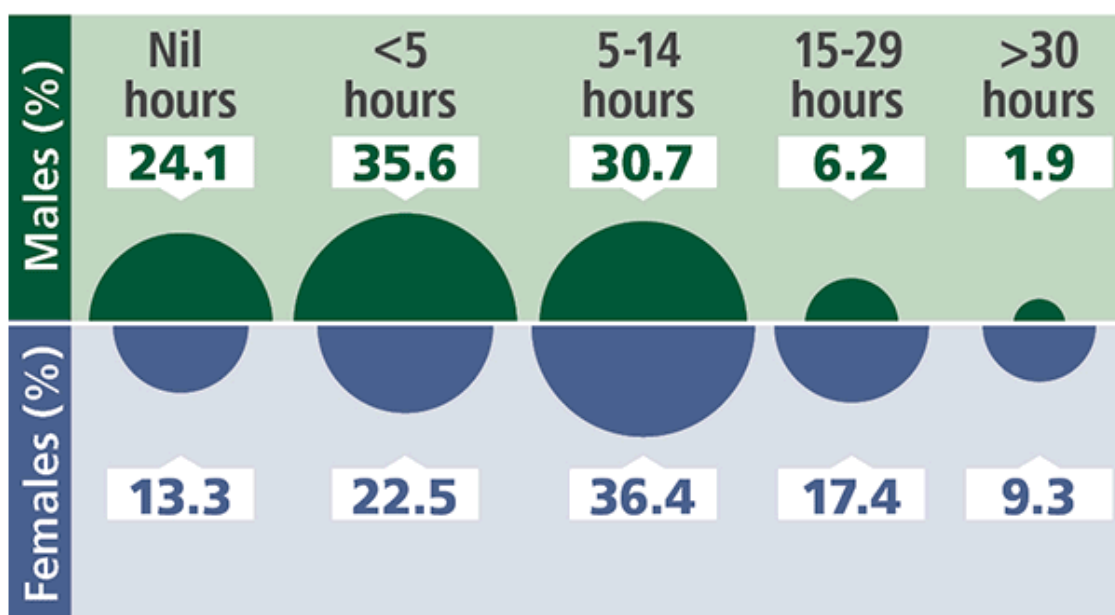
- In the last two weeks did the person spend time looking after a child, without pay?
- In the last two weeks did the person spend time providing unpaid care, help or assistance to family members or others because of a disability, a long term health condition or problems related to old age?
- In the last week did the person spend time doing unpaid domestic work for their household?
- In the last twelve months did the person spend any time doing voluntary work through an organisation or group?

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 CENSUS ON UNPAID WORK AND CARE**

Sources: 2071.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia - Stories from the Census, 2016 and ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing



## Weekly hours\* of unpaid domestic work

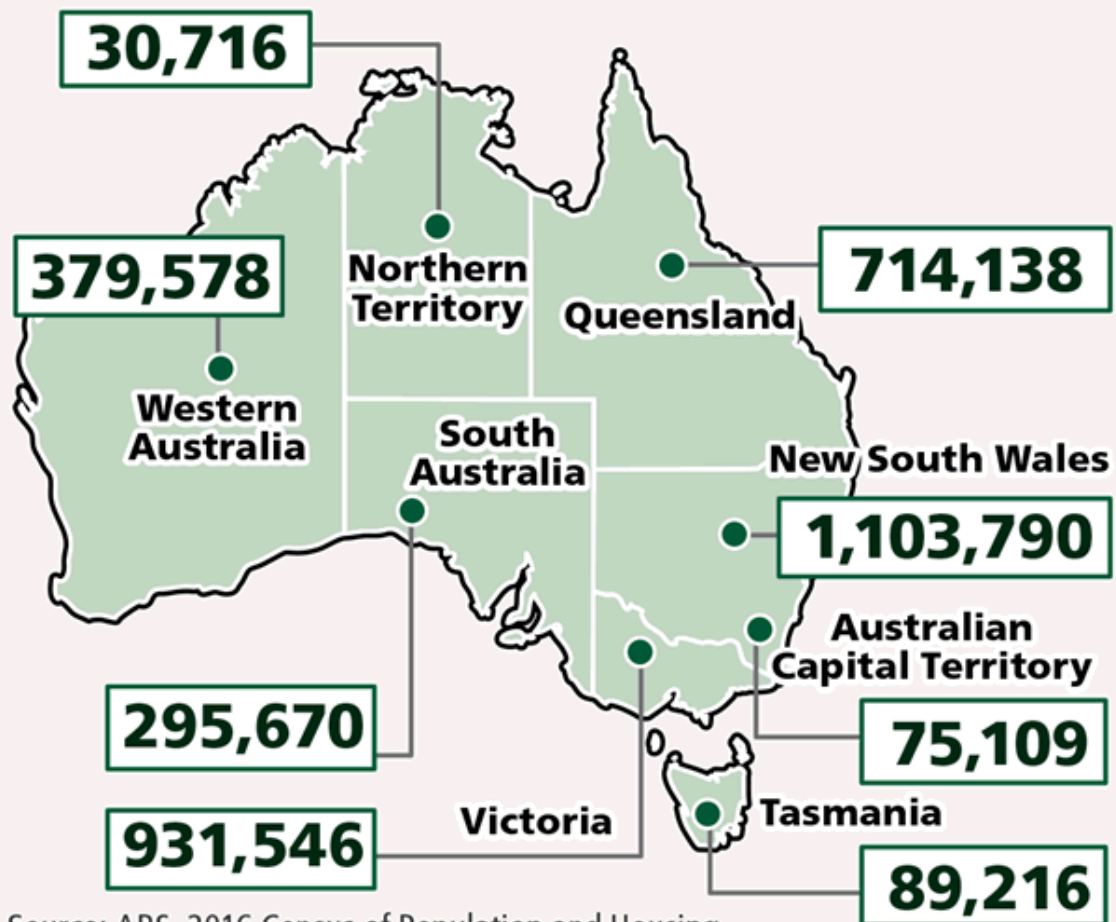


\* Hours in the week prior to Census for employed people.

Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing

Infographic showing the weekly hours of unpaid domestic work for employed males and females.

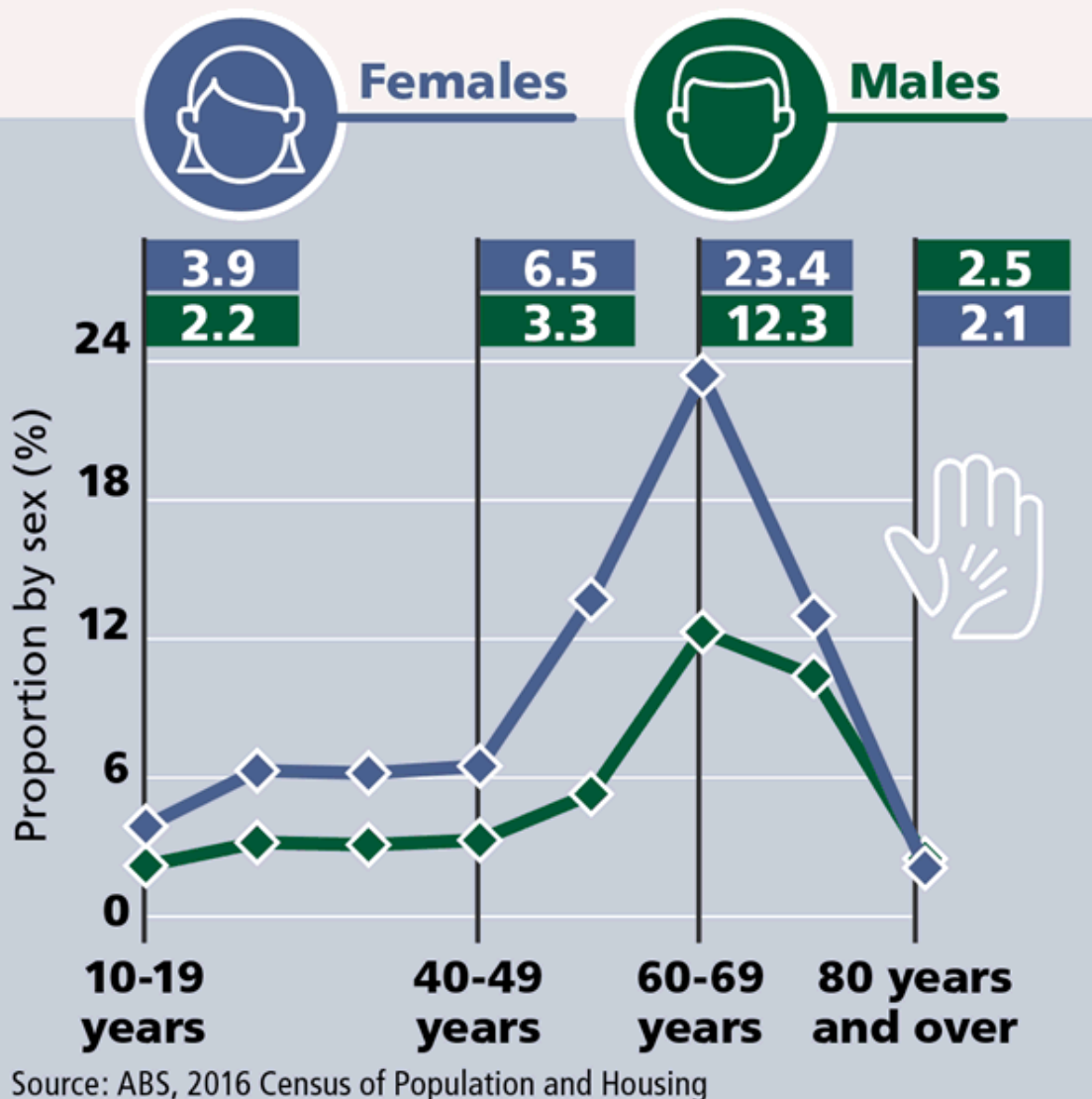
## Number of volunteers by state and territory



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing

Infographic showing the number of volunteers by state and territory.

## Males and females providing unpaid care to children other than their own



Infographic showing males and females providing unpaid care to children other than their own.

### STANDARDS

There are no standards used for the collection of unpaid work and care information.

If you are interested in finding out more information about volunteering data please refer to 4159.0.55.004 - Discussion Paper: Information needs for Volunteering data, April 2017, and 4159.0.55.005 - Information Paper: Collection of Volunteering data in the ABS, March 2018.

### WHAT HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU ABOUT THE 2021 CENSUS?

The ABS has undertaken initial discussions and reviewed feedback from the 2016 Census in preparation for this consultation.

Feedback from stakeholders has indicated that unpaid work and care is an important topic to be included on the 2021 Census. Discussions to date have also highlighted aspects of this topic for possible review.

Emerging themes include:

- an interest in differentiating between formal and informal volunteering
- asking the unpaid work and care questions of respondents under the age of 15 years
- identifying if there is still a national data need to collect data on unpaid domestic work.

This consultation is an opportunity for you to provide your views on what unpaid work and care information should be collected on the 2021 Census.

## **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC**

The ABS collects data on work and unpaid care through a number of different collections. Listed below is a selection of ABS publications as well as other relevant sources. For the comprehensive list of ABS products, please visit the ABS website.

### **4430.0 - Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2015**

This publication presents information from the 2015 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC). The survey was conducted in all states and territories and across urban, rural and remote areas of Australia (other than very remote areas).

The survey provides data on carers who provide ongoing informal assistance to older people and/or people with a disability. It includes characteristic data on carers and non-carers, with a particular focus on primary carers and the people they provide assistance to, as well as information on the effects of caring on primary carers.

### **4159.0 - General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2014**

The GSS covers a wide range of topics, many of which are collected in other surveys. The analysis draws on data from complementary sources, and considers factors that may be driving changes in selected measures. The GSS measures resources that reflect the wellbeing of individuals and communities, with social capital being a particular focus. Social capital is conceived as a resource available to individuals and communities, and founded on networks of mutual support, reciprocity and trust. Research links strong social capital to increased individual and community wellbeing. It includes elements such as community support, social participation, civic participation, network size, trust and trustworthiness, and an ability to have a level of control of issues important to them.

### **5202.0 Spotlight on the national accounts: Unpaid work and the Australian economy, May 2014**

The focus of this paper is the overall value and growth of unpaid work conducted by households in Australia, including comparisons to other countries. The value of unpaid work falls outside of the current conventional measures of production, as captured by the Australian System of National Accounts, but combining the value of unpaid work with traditional measure of production provides a more complete picture of the nation's economic activities.

### **4153.0 - How Australians Use Their Time, 2006**

How Australians Use Their Time presents selected results from the 2006 Time Use Survey. Time use surveys collect detailed information on the daily activity patterns of people in Australia. The information is used to examine how people allocate time to activities, such as paid and unpaid work. Additionally, it is used to analyse such issues as gender equality, care giving and balancing family and paid work responsibilities.

### **Household, Income and Labour Dynamics (HILDA) survey**

The Melbourne Institute runs the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey. This longitudinal panel survey collects information about economic and personal wellbeing, labour market dynamics and family life. HILDA collects a measure of time spent in domestic activity, which can be used to track transitions in this activity over time for a range of population groups.

### **The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children**

Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children follows the development of 10,000 children and families from all parts of Australia. It is conducted in partnership between the Department of Social Services, the Australian Institute of Family Studies and the Australian Bureau

of Statistics. Part of the study collects data on time spent by parents on housework, childcare and paid work.

## **TECHNICAL AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

4159.0.55.005 - Information Paper: Collection of Volunteering data in the ABS, March 2018

This information paper provides a summary of submissions received in response to federal government and national consultations on volunteering data (conducted by the ABS in 2017), and directions being taken by the ABS in the collection of volunteering data as a result of these consultations.

4150.0 - Time Use Survey: User Guide, 2006

Describes the definitions, concepts, methodology and estimation procedures used in the Time Use Survey. It also contains questionnaires and lists of output data items.

What are your unpaid work and care data needs? Share your views with us on the most useful information we should collect in the 2021 Census. Make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS Consultation Hub.

## **Education and training**

### **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on education and training.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au)

### **WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE 2016 CENSUS?**

Education and training topics on the Census included:

- attendance at an educational institution
- engagement in employment, education and training
- highest year of schooling
- highest non-school qualification.

### **HOW IS THIS INFORMATION USED?**

Education and training data from the Census is used for a variety of purposes at federal, state/territory and community levels to:

- inform the allocation of education services (such as new schools) across Australia
- know the labour market by assessing the number of people with different qualifications
- understand the employment outcomes for people based on their level and field of education
- monitor the flows of people between different parts of the education system (preschools, schools, vocational and higher education institutions)
- understand the characteristics (such as the income) of households that have members attending an educational institution (such as a high school)
- report on progress against targets in national reporting (such as Closing the Gap).

## **THE QUESTIONS ASKED ON THE 2016 CENSUS**

- Is the person attending a school or any other educational institution?
- What type of educational institution is the person attending?
- What is the highest year of primary or secondary school the person has completed?
- Has the person completed an educational qualification (including a trade certificate)?
- What is the level of the highest qualification the person has completed?
- What is the main field of study for the person's highest qualification completed?
- Did the person complete this qualification before 1998?

## **DATA PRODUCED FROM THE 2016 CENSUS**

Questions about education and training provide data on:












- Engagement in Employment, Education and Training (EETP, STUP)
- Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status (STUP, TYSTAP)
- Level of Highest Educational Attainment (HEAP)
- Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP)
- Non-School Qualification (level of education and field of study) (QALFP, QALLP)

For more information view 2901.0 - Census Dictionary

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 CENSUS ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Source: 2071.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia - Stories from the Census, 2016

## Employment and income by qualification level – people aged 20-64 years

Level of qualification 	Employed (%) 	Personal income (median weekly) 
<b>Bachelor degree and above*</b>	<b>83.4</b> 	<b>\$1,436</b> 
<b>Advanced diploma and diploma level</b>	<b>79.6</b> 	<b>\$1,083</b> 
<b>Certificate level</b>	<b>79.9</b> 	<b>\$1,017</b> 
<b>No non-school qualifications</b>	<b>63.0</b> 	<b>\$836</b> 

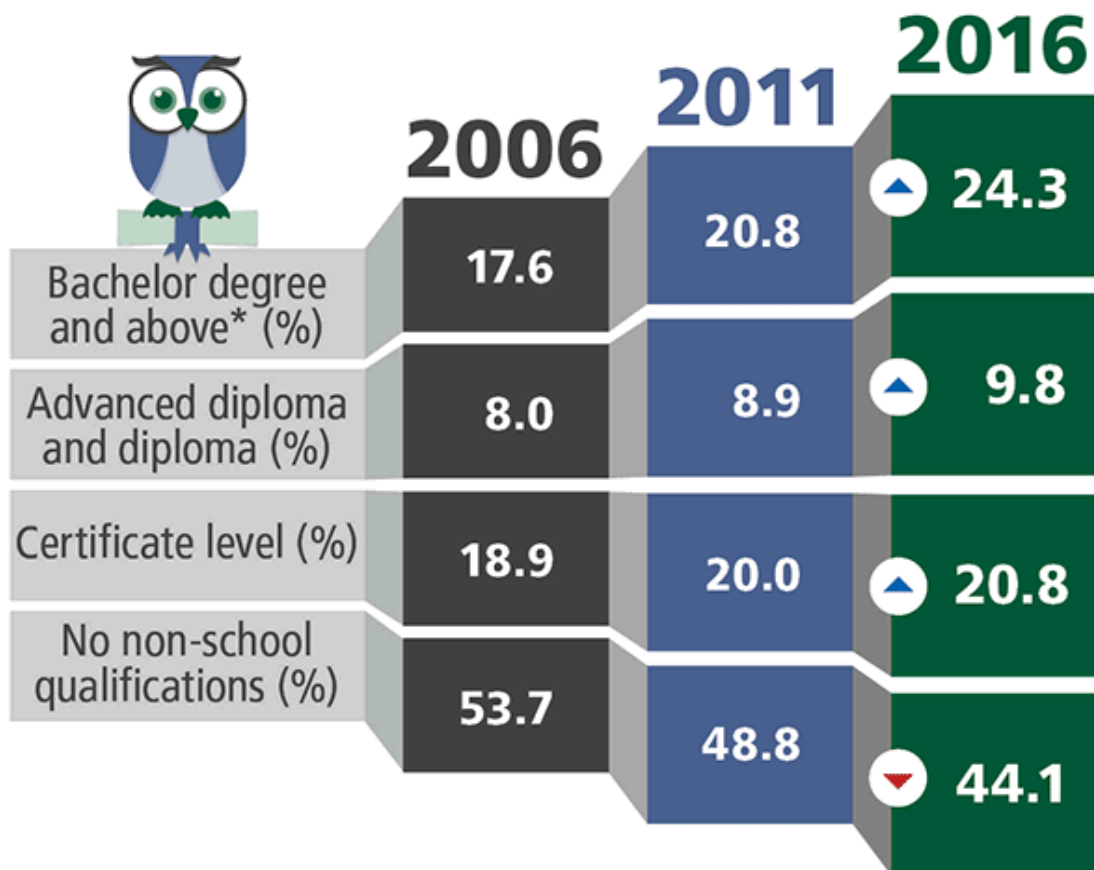
\*Includes bachelor degrees, graduate certificates and graduate diplomas and postgraduate degrees.

Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing

Infographic showing the proportion of people employed and median personal income by the level of qualification.



## Qualifications over time – 2006, 2011, 2016

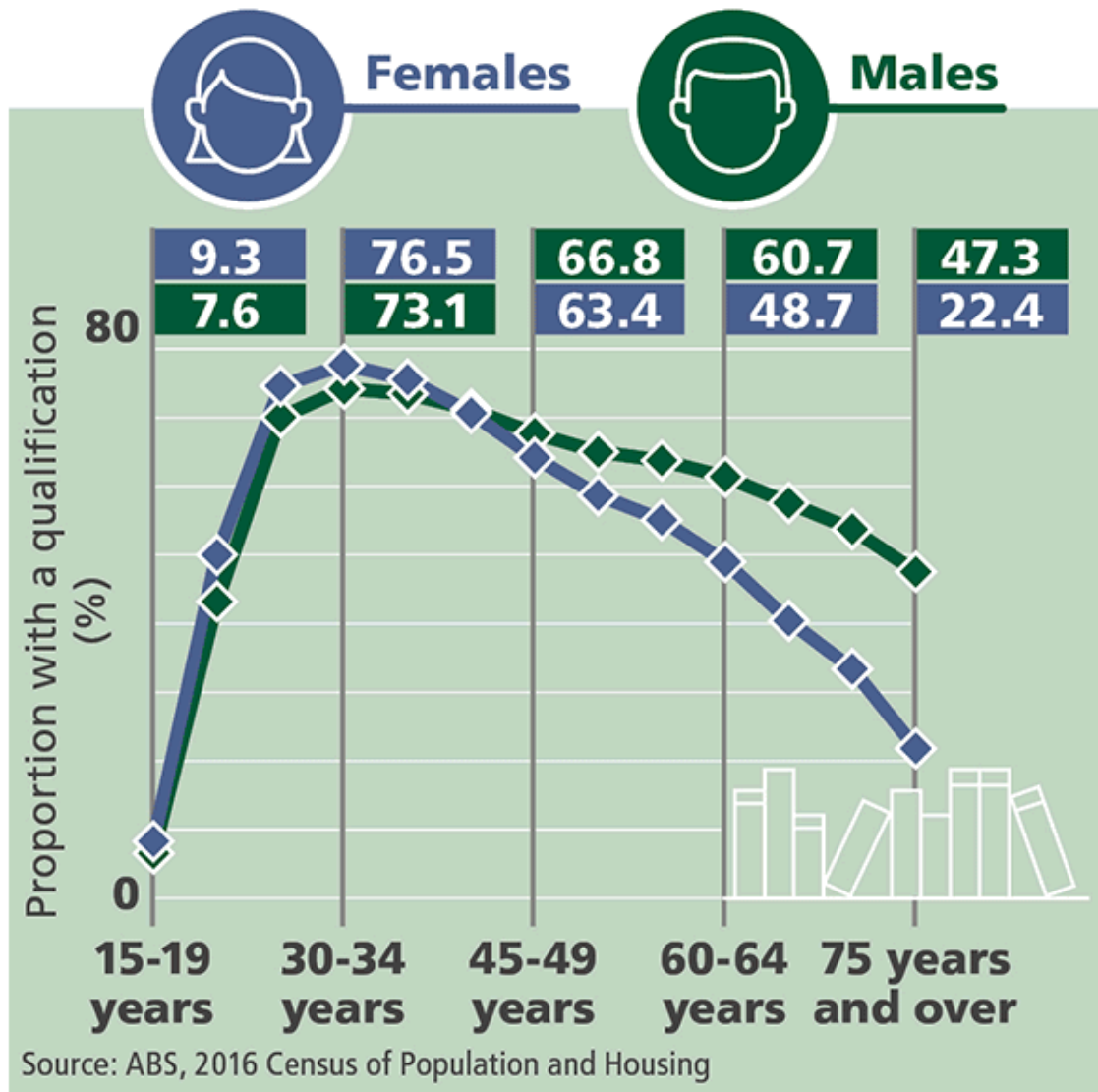


\*Includes bachelor degrees, graduate certificates and graduate diplomas and postgraduate degrees.

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing

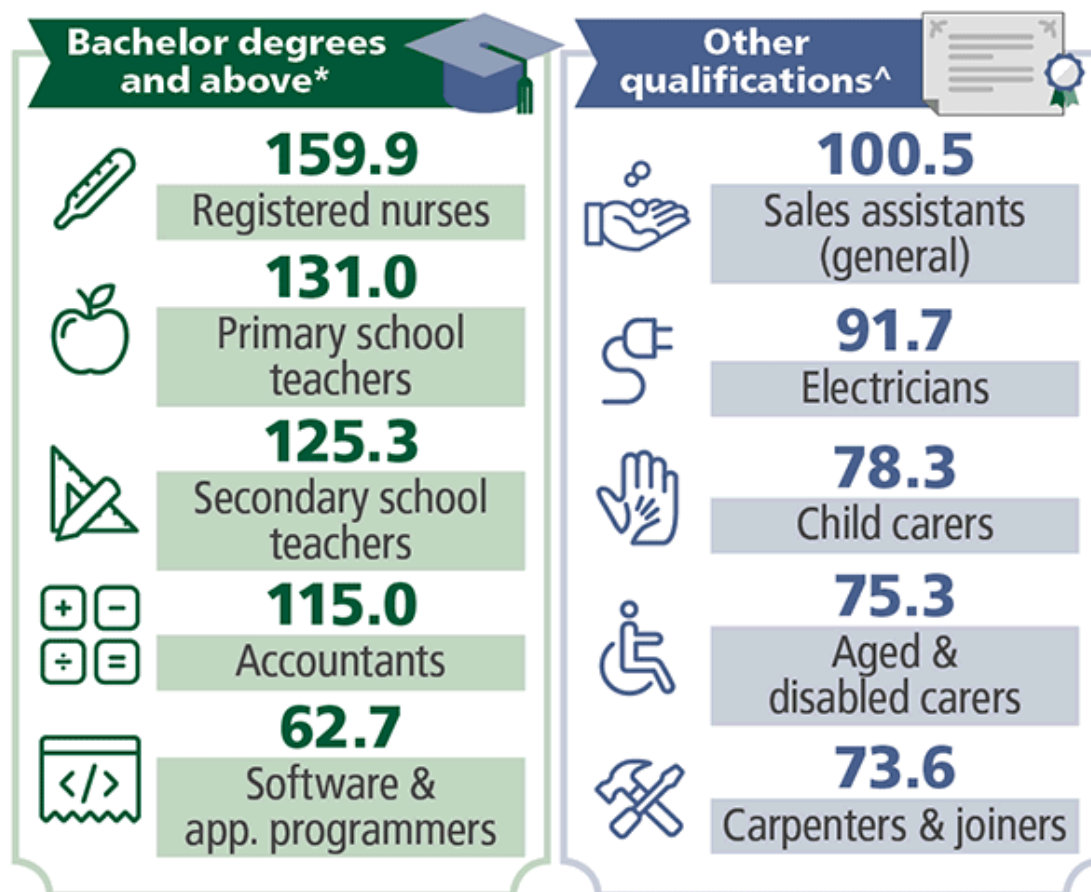
Infographic showing the change in different levels of qualifications over time, 2006, 2011 and 2016.

## Males and females with non-school qualifications



Infographic showing the proportion of men and women of different ages with qualifications.

## Top 5 Occupations (aged 20-64, count '000)



\*Includes bachelor degrees, graduate certificates and graduate diplomas and postgraduate degrees.

^Includes advanced diplomas, diplomas and certificate-level qualifications.

Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing

Infographic showing the top five occupations for people with different levels of qualifications.

## STANDARDS

A number of standards are used by the ABS to classify statistics relating to education and training:

1272.0 - Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001

1246.0 - Education Variables, June 2014

## WHAT HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU ABOUT THE 2021 CENSUS?

The ABS has undertaken initial discussions and reviewed feedback from the 2016 Census in preparation for this consultation.

Feedback from stakeholders has indicated that education and training is still a relevant and important topic to be included on the 2021 Census. Specifically, we have heard how expanded data on this topic could help to understand new and emerging themes and issues.

Discussions have suggested that beneficial expanded data may include:

- other qualifications people may have attained in addition to their highest qualification
- the population group that engages with Vocational Education and Training (VET)
- early childhood learning and its role in the pathways through the education system and employment outcomes
- adding questions on the educational institution address and mode of travel to education.

This consultation is an opportunity for you to provide your views on what education and training information should be collected on the 2021 Census.

## **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC:**

The ABS collects data on education and training through a number of different collections. Listed below is a selection of ABS publications as well as other relevant sources. For the comprehensive list of ABS products, please visit the ABS website.

### **6227.0 - Education and Work, Australia, May 2017**

This publication contains results from the 2017 Survey of Education and Work (SEW). The SEW provides annual information on a range of key indicators of educational participation and attainment of persons aged 15-74 years, along with data on people's transition between education and work. The annual time series allows for ongoing monitoring of the level of education of Australia's population including participation in current and previous study; type of educational institution attended; highest year of school completed; level and field of highest non-school qualification; characteristics of people's transition between education and work; and selected characteristics of apprentices and trainees.

### **4240.0 - Preschool Education, Australia, 2017**

This annual publication contains statistics on children enrolled and attending preschool programs across Australia in 2017. The statistics were compiled from data collected through the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection which includes data about service providers and children.

### **4221.0 - Schools Australia 2017**

This annual publication contains data on students, schools and staff involved in the provision or administration of primary and secondary education, in government and non-government schools, for all Australian states and territories. The statistics are derived from administrative records compiled by each state and territory and the Australian Government.

### **4234.0 - Work-Related Training and Adult Learning, Australia, 2016-17**

This publication contains results from the Survey of Work-Related Training and Adult Learning (WRTAL). This survey collected information about the level of participation of Australia's population in formal and non-formal learning, with a particular focus on work-related training and personal interest learning. Information available from the survey includes participation rates in non-formal learning, the reasons for participation, the time spent, personal costs incurred and also data on the barriers that prevent some people from undertaking training.

### **4235.0 - Qualifications and Work, Australia, 2015**

This survey collects detailed information about the educational history of people and the relevance of each qualification to their working lives. The data includes the level and field of each qualification, year of completion and whether the qualification was attained in Australia.

### **4402.0 - Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2014**

The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Childhood Education and Care Survey (CEaCS). This publication presents information on children aged 0-12 years and their families. Information presented includes: use of formal and informal care; cost and duration of care; working arrangements used by parents to care for their children; attendance at preschool programs; requirements for additional formal care or preschool; and informal learning.

### **4228.0 - Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, Australia, 2011-2012**

This publication presents data for the 2011-2012 Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC). Respondents to this survey completed tasks designed to assess their skills in literacy, numeracy and problem solving in technology-rich environments.

PIAAC is an international survey coordinated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The OECD proposes to conduct the PIAAC survey internationally every ten years. The next PIAAC survey is therefore proposed to be conducted in 2021.

#### Australia Early Development Census

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) provides a national measurement to monitor Australian children's development. The AEDC provides evidence to support policy, planning and action for health, education and community support. The AEDC can assist governments to develop flexible approaches to policy and planning that address the evolving needs of children and families in the future.

The AEDC is held every three years, with the 2018 data collection being the fourth collection. The census involves teachers of children in their first year of full-time school completing a research tool, the Australian version of the Early Development Instrument. The Instrument collects data relating to five key areas of early childhood development referred to as 'domains', these include:

- physical health and well being
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive skills
- communication skills and general knowledge.

What are your education and training data needs? Share your views with us on the most useful information we should collect in the 2021 Census. Make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS Consultation Hub.

## Disability and carers

### DISABILITY AND CARERS

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on disability and carers.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au)

### WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE 2016 CENSUS?

Disability and carers topics on the Census included:

- need for assistance
- unpaid care (due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person).

For more information view 2901.0 - Census Dictionary

### HOW IS THIS INFORMATION USED?

The Census can help to determine the number and characteristics (for example, age and geographic location) of people requiring assistance or supervision to perform core everyday activities (self care, mobility and ability to communicate), whether due to a disability, long term health condition or ageing.

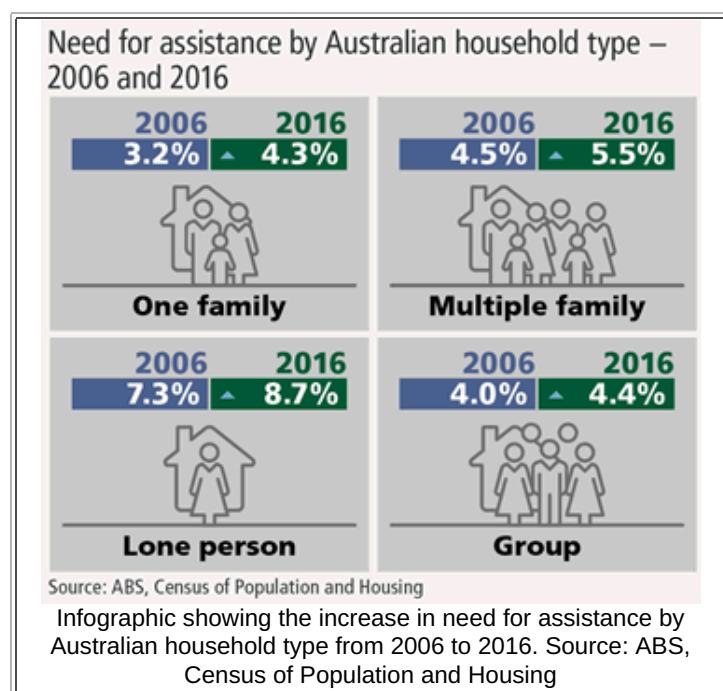
This information helps service providers and governments plan what local facilities, services and support are required, such as in-home support, respite care and support to carers.

The Census also collects information about the provision of unpaid care in the community. This helps provide an understanding of the assistance needed and the support being provided by informal or unpaid carers. For more information on unpaid care and other kinds of unpaid work, read the Unpaid work and care topic brief.

## THE QUESTIONS ASKED ON THE 2016 CENSUS

- Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, self care activities?
- Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, body movement activities?
- Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, communication activities?
- What are the reasons for the need for assistance or supervision?
- In the last two weeks did the person spend time providing unpaid care, help or assistance to family members or others because of a disability, a long term health condition or problems related to old age?

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 CENSUS ON DISABILITY AND CARERS



## WHAT HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU ABOUT THE 2021 CENSUS?

The ABS has undertaken initial discussions and reviewed feedback from the 2016 Census in preparation for this consultation.

Initial feedback from stakeholders has indicated that 'Need for assistance' and 'Unpaid care' due to the disability, long term illness or old age of another person are still relevant and important topics to include on the 2021 Census. However, we have heard that there is potential to expand the topic to better meet national data needs.

Emerging themes include:

- collecting information about whether the person uses aids and equipment to assist with core activities
- collecting more detailed information on reasons for needing assistance
- capturing whether the respondent is participating in the National Disability Insurance Scheme or not.

This consultation is an opportunity for you to provide your views on what disability information should be collected on the 2021 Census.

## **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC:**

The ABS collects data on disability and carers through a number of different collections. Listed below is a selection of ABS publications. For the comprehensive list of ABS products, please visit the ABS website.

### **4430.0 - Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2015**

The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers is a national survey conducted every three years. This survey:

- measures the prevalence of disability in Australia
- measures the need for support of older people and those with disability
- provides a demographic and socio-economic profile of people with disability, older people and carers compared with the general population
- estimates the number of, and provides information about, people who provide care to: people with disability and older people.

### **4159.0 - General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2014**

The General Social Survey (GSS) is conducted every four years and provides an understanding of the multi-dimensional nature of relative advantage and disadvantage across the population, and facilitates reporting on (and monitoring of) people's opportunities to participate fully in society. Themes include how Australia has progressed on aspects of social capital such as participation, support, feelings of safety and trust. The GSS also draws attention to overall life satisfaction, focusing on characteristics of population groups with low reported life satisfaction (people with a mental health condition, people with disability, recent and other migrants, people living in one parent families and those with different sexual orientations).

### **4714.0 - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2014-15**

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) is run every six years and collects information from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in non-remote and remote areas, including discrete communities.

This survey provides broad, self-reported information across key areas of social interest for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The NATSISS provides a range of information about the social and economic circumstances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over living with disability or a restrictive long-term health condition.

What are your disability and carers needs? Share your views with us on the most useful information we should collect in the 2021 Census. Make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS Consultation Hub.

## **Housing**

### **HOUSING**

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on housing.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au)

## **WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE 2016 CENSUS?**

Housing topics on the Census included:

- type of tenure (nature of occupancy)
- structure and types of dwellings
- homelessness
- housing costs
- number of bedrooms
- internet access.

## **HOW IS THIS INFORMATION USED?**

Information collected in the Census about housing provides an indication of the number and types of homes around Australia. Questions are also asked about ownership and renting, and housing costs in terms of rent or mortgage payments.

This information helps inform planning for community housing, as well as provides insights to the extent of overcrowding in parts of Australia. This data can be used in conjunction with demographic information and other data sources to assist with planning for future housing needs.

Housing data, in conjunction with a person's response of 'none' to the usual address question also contributes to estimating the number of people experiencing homelessness.

A question on access to the internet has been included on the Census since 2001, when planning internet access and online services was a key priority. However, the way that individuals access the internet continues to change rapidly, so this question may not be as useful as it was in the past.

Dwelling information aids in the development and maintenance of the ABS Address Register, which is critical to how the Census operation is conducted. This information is also used as a quality measure to ensure that everyone is included in the Census across Australia.

## **THE QUESTIONS ASKED ON THE 2016 CENSUS**

- How many bedrooms are there in this dwelling?
- Is this dwelling: owned outright, with a mortgage, being purchased, rented, etc.
- If this dwelling is being rented, who is it rented from?
- How much does your household pay for this dwelling?
- Does any member of this household access the internet from this dwelling?

Further to these questions, the ABS collects information on occupancy, structure, location, and type of dwellings during Census preparation and operations. Additional processes and strategies are also applied to assist people experiencing homelessness to participate in the Census.

## **DATA PRODUCED FROM THE 2016 CENSUS**



Questions about housing provide data on:

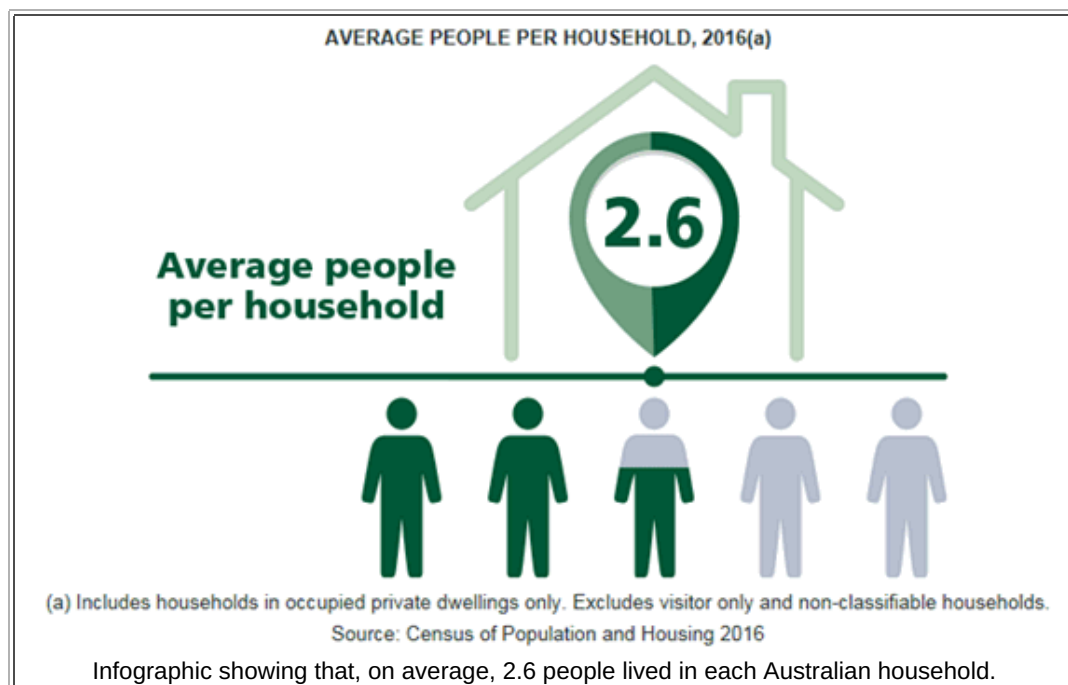
- Tenure and landlord types (TEND, LLDD, TENLLD)
- Housing costs through mortgage and rent (MRED, MRERD, RNTD, RNTRD)
- Dwelling type, structure and location (DWTD, STRD, DLOD)
- Non-private dwellings including supported accommodation (NPDD, RLNP, SAFD)
- Housing Suitability (HOSD)
- Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling (BEDD, BEDRD)
- Dwelling Internet Connection (NEDD)

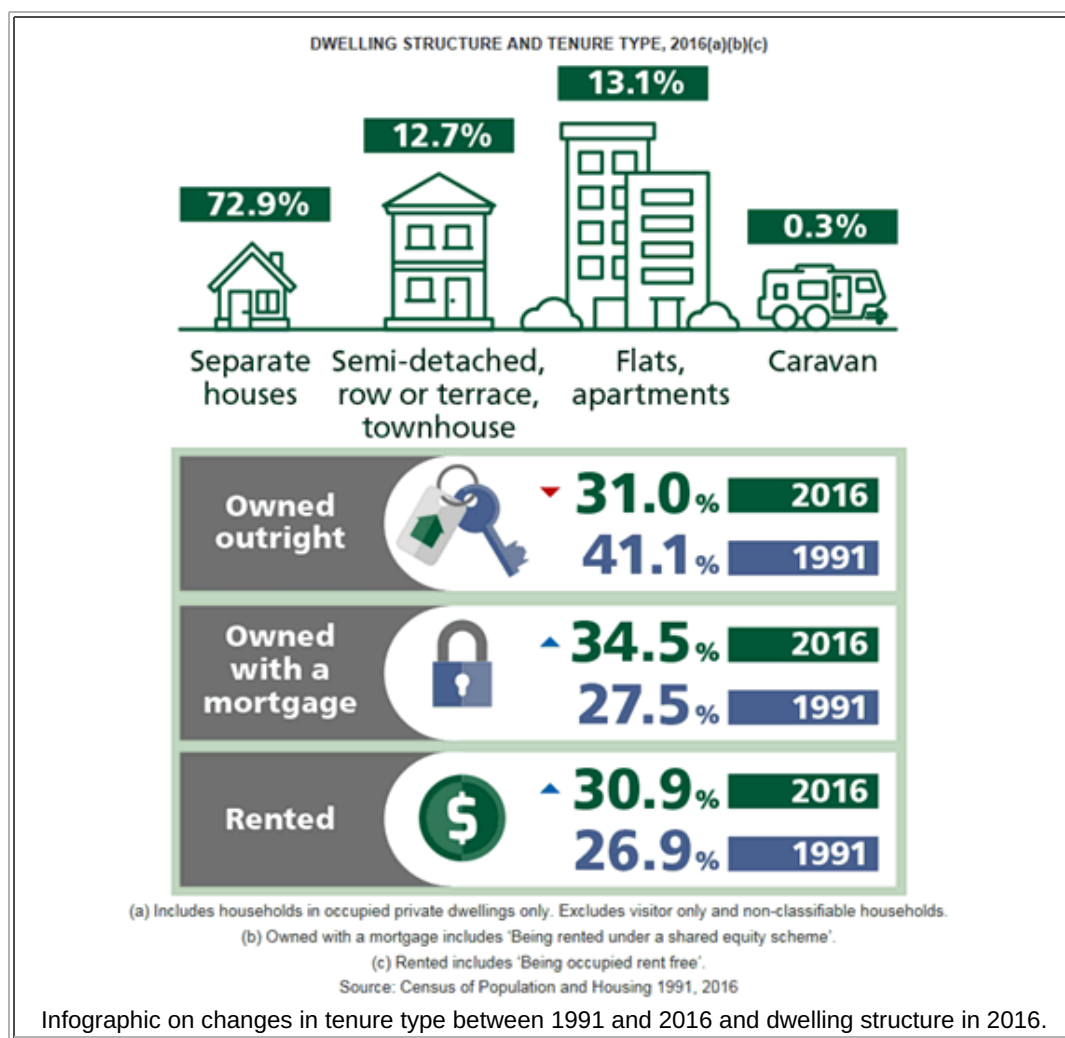
For more information view 2901.0 - Census Dictionary

Estimates of homelessness are based on responses to questions on usual residence, dwelling type, number of bedrooms, and various person and family characteristics.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 CENSUS ON HOUSING

Sources: 2071.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia - Stories from the Census, 2016





## STANDARDS

For details of how the ABS defines concepts related to housing and homelessness, please refer to the following papers:

1200.0.55.011 - Housing Variables, 2014

4922.0 - Information Paper - A Statistical Definition of Homelessness, 2012

## WHAT HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU ABOUT THE 2021 CENSUS?

The ABS has undertaken initial discussions and reviewed feedback from the 2016 Census in preparation for this consultation.

Feedback from stakeholders has indicated that housing is still a relevant and important topic to be included on the 2021 Census. However, we have heard that there is potential to expand the topic to better meet national data needs.

Discussions have suggested emerging themes may include:

- improvements to the 'no usual address' options to better identify people experiencing homelessness
- improvements to the landlord type answer categories to better capture public, government and community housing
- remove the internet access question as the Census may not be the most appropriate source for this information.

This consultation is an opportunity for you to provide your views on what housing information should be collected on the 2021 Census.

## **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC:**

The ABS collects data on housing through a number of different collections. Listed below is a selection of ABS publications as well as other sources. For the comprehensive list of ABS products, please visit the ABS website.

### **4130.0 - Housing Occupancy and Costs, 2015-16**

This publication presents data from the Survey of Income and Housing 2015-16 on Australian housing occupancy and costs, and relates these to characteristics of occupants and dwellings such as: tenure, family composition of household, dwelling structure, age, income and principal source of income.

It also includes value of dwelling estimates and information on recent home buyers. This publication is released every two years in line with Survey of Income and Housing.

### **5609.0 - Housing Finance, Australia**

This publication contains time series data for:

- secured and unsecured housing finance commitments for owner occupation
- commitments for construction or purchase of dwellings for rent or resale
- loans outstanding to individuals/households for housing.

### **8153.0 - Internet Activity, Australia, December 2016**

This bi annual release contains details of internet activity supplied by Internet Service Providers in Australia with more than 1,000 subscribers. It includes information on internet subscribers by type of connection, volume of data downloaded and advertised speed of the internet.

### **8146.0 Household Use of Information Technology, Australia**

This publication contains information on household internet access and persons internet use. It includes information on the number of households and people with internet access, types of devices used by households to access the internet, reasons for accessing the internet and internet purchases. The 2016-17 release of this publication will be the final issue.

### **8166.0 - Summary of IT Use and Innovation in Australian Business, 2015-16**

This annual release presents key indicators on the use of information technology and innovation in Australian business, as collected by the 2015-16 Business Characteristics Survey.

### **8129.0 - Business Use of Information Technology, 2015-16**

This two yearly release presents key indicators on the use of information technology and related practices by Australian businesses, as collected in the 2015-16 Business Characteristics Survey.

## **NON ABS SOURCES**

### **NBN Wholesale Market Indictors Report**

This report provides a count of the number of services in operation, including technology used, geography and speed.

### **NBN Half-Year Report for the six months ended 31 December 2017**

This report covers the operations of NBN Co for the half-year ending December 2017. Information is included on the number of premises ready for service, number of premises ready to connect and number of premises activated by type of connection, as well as reporting on progress towards the 2020 goal.

## **TECHNICAL AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

6503.0 – Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2015-16

This user guide contains details about the combined cycle of Survey of Income and Housing and the Household Expenditure Survey conducted in 2015-16. It includes information about the purpose of the survey, the concepts and contents, and the methods and procedures used to collect the data and derive the estimates.

6553.0 - Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2013-14

This user guide contains details about the non-HES cycle of the Survey of Income and Housing conducted in 2013-14. It includes information about the purpose of the survey, the concepts and contents, and the methods and procedures used to collect the data and derive the estimates.

2049.0.55.001 - Information Paper - Methodology for Estimating Homelessness from the Census of Population and Housing, 2012

This information paper presents the ABS' methodology for estimating the prevalence of homelessness from the Census of Population and Housing. This methodology was developed in consultation with the ABS' Homelessness Statistics Reference Group and builds on the review the ABS conducted on the development of official estimates of homelessness. The ABS' statistical definition of homelessness underpins this methodology. More information on the definition can be found in 4922.0 Information Paper: A Statistical Definition of Homelessness.

2900.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the Census and Census Data, Australia, 2016

This publication provides information to help people use and interpret 2016 Census data. The article 'Comparing the average number of persons per bedroom over time' includes additional information on specific concepts relevant to the topics outlined in this brief.

What are your housing needs? Share your views with us on the most useful information we should collect in the 2021 Census. Make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS Consultation Hub.

## **Location**

### **LOCATION**

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on location.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au)

### **WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE CENSUS?**

Location based topics on the Census included:

- address on Census night
- usual residence
- internal migration (address 1 year ago)

- internal migration (address 5 years ago)
- workplace address for the main job held the week before Census night.

## **HOW IS THIS INFORMATION USED?**

The Census provides the most accurate, if not the only, source of consistent information for small geographic areas and small population groups across the country. Information about addresses is used to provide a count of people living and working in particular areas.

The information about the number and types of people (for example, families and elderly people) is important to inform future planning and delivery of services to address local community needs.

The information on where people work is considered in planning for emergency response and improvement of infrastructure, such as roads for commuters.

The geographic movement of people between Censuses helps governments, businesses and communities determine and plan for future growth in different areas, particularly as almost half of Australians changed their address in the five years between the 2011 and 2016 Censuses.

## **THE QUESTIONS ASKED ON THE 2016 CENSUS**

- Where does the person usually live?
- What is the address of this dwelling?
- Where did the person usually live one year ago?
- Where did the person usually live five years ago?
- For the main job held last week, what was the person's workplace address?

## **DATA PRODUCED FROM THE 2016 CENSUS**

The Census does not release any information related to specific addresses of individuals and individuals cannot be identified from the Census data.

Census data can provide information on the number of people within a geographic area based on address on Census night, place of usual residence and place of work.

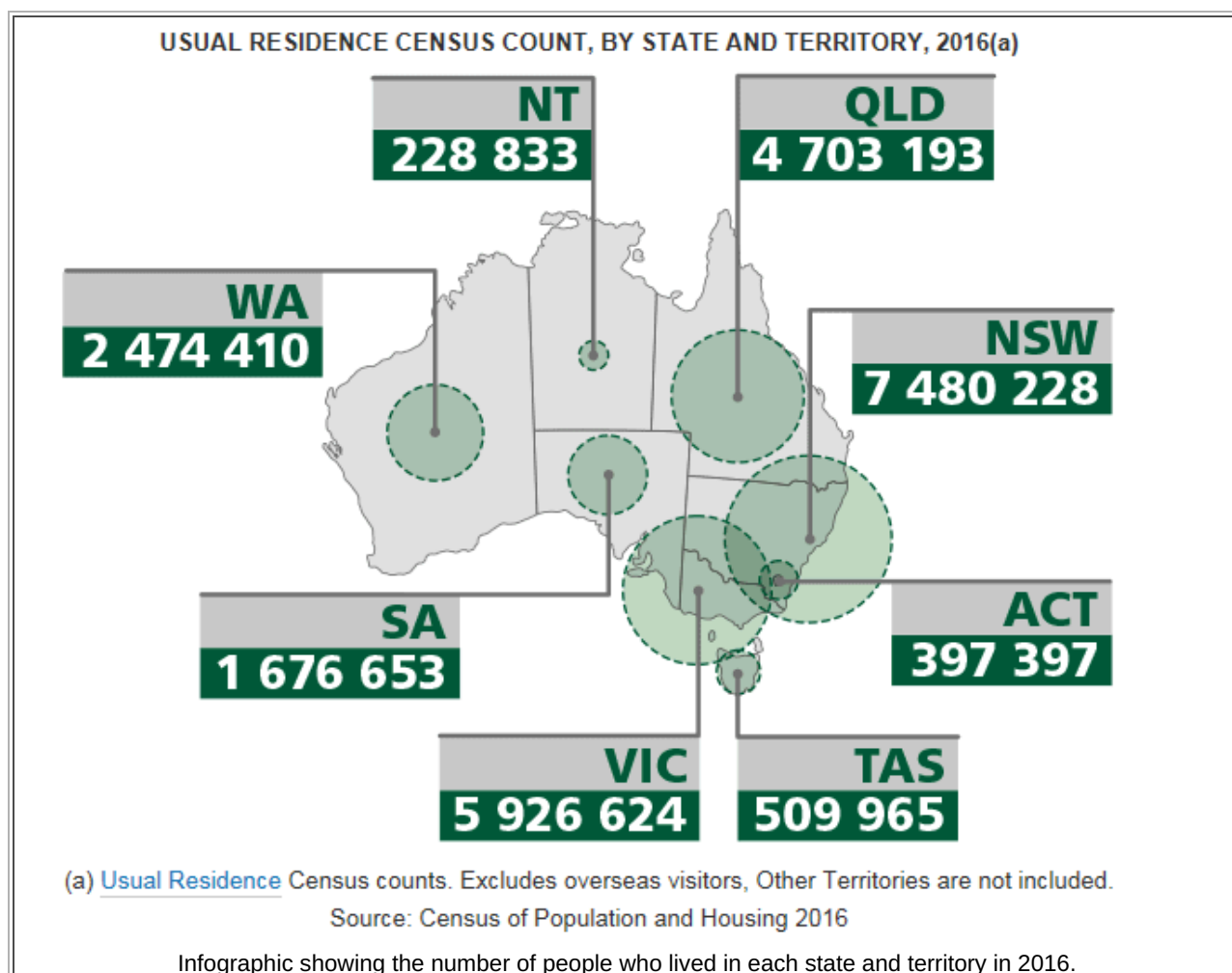
Questions about locations provide data on:

- Location based on usual residential address (PURP, UAICP, IFPURP)
- Internal migration via usual address one year and five years ago (PUR1P, PUR5P, UAI1P, UAI5P, MV1D, MV5D)
- Destination zone based on workplace address (POWP)

For more information view 2901.0 - Census Dictionary

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 CENSUS ON LOCATION**

Source: 2071.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia - Stories from the Census, 2016



## STANDARDS

The geographic standard used by the ABS to classify statistics relating to location is the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). For more detail on how the Census applies the geography standard, refer to Census Geography Basics.

## WHAT HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU ABOUT THE 2021 CENSUS?

The ABS has undertaken initial discussions and reviewed feedback from the 2016 Census in preparation for this consultation.

Feedback from stakeholders has indicated that location is still an integral part of the 2021 Census.

The ABS is working to improve the way addresses are provided, validated and coded at Census time. This will improve the quality of the location information and result in more meaningful Census products and data.

However, we understand that there is interest in expanding the information we collect or make greater use of the existing information to better meet national data needs.

The suggestion of collecting country of usual residence for address one and five years ago, rather than stating overseas has been raised by multiple stakeholders, and would align with international standards.

The need to gain an understanding of service populations including short and long stay tourists and those with holiday homes as well as Fly-in fly-out/Drive-in drive-out workers has continued to be raised. Similar issues have also been raised around understanding the location of complex family

structures; including children in custody arrangements. However, challenges exist in collecting this data as respondents may be required to enter multiple addresses.

Discussions have also covered how combining Census with other data sources can provide new measures and insights. An example of this is the measure of Commuting Distance from the combination of a road dataset with Usual Residence and Place of Work locations.

This consultation is an opportunity for you to provide your views on what location information should be collected on the 2021 Census.

## **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC**

The ABS collects data on location through a number of different collections. Listed below is a selection of ABS publications. For the comprehensive list of ABS products, please visit the ABS website.

### **3412.0 - Migration, Australia, 2015-16**

This publication presents annual regional internal migration estimates based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). Datasets included in this product provide summaries of migration data for the years ending 30 June 2007 to 2016, and include data by migration type (arrivals, departures and net moves) broken down by age, sex, and various sub-state geographies.

### **3101.0 - Australian Demographic Statistics**

This publication includes the latest quarterly and annual updates on interstate migration, and is released every three months. Datasets in this publication include total interstate arrivals and departures for each state and territory, and interstate estimates by state of arrival and state of departure, including time series.

## **TECHNICAL AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **1389.0 - Usual Residence Concepts Sources and Methods Paper, Jan 2004**

This paper details the two concepts of Usual Residence used in the ABS, it explains why two concepts are necessary, when and how the concepts are used, the effect of using the two concepts and describes the method in which the two concepts are used. The two Usual Residence concepts are Usual Residence in a Dwelling (UR1) and Usual Residence in a Household or Family Home (UR2).

### **6105.0 - Australian Labour Market Statistics, July 2013 - FLY-IN FLY-OUT (FIFO) WORKERS**

This product contains annual supplementary measures of labour underutilisation and employment type, as well as analyses of contemporary labour market issues and information about the latest developments in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour statistics program. One issue discussed in more detail is the FIFO phenomenon (circumstances of work where the place of work is sufficiently isolated from the worker's place of residence to make daily commute impractical). It discusses how these workers are reflected in the Australian population and where they are identified in various survey collections.

### **Fact sheets - Internal migration**

Internal migration is the movement of people from one defined area to another within a country. Information on internal migration within Australia is available from the Census and is discussed in this paper.

### **2900.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the Census and Census Data, Australia, 2016**

This publication provides information to help people use and interpret 2016 Census data. The article 'Place of Enumeration vs Place of Usual Residence' includes additional information on specific concepts relevant to the topics outlined in this brief.

What are your Location needs? Share your views with us on the most useful information we should collect in the 2021 Census. Make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS Consultation Hub.

## Transport

### TRANSPORT

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on transport.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au)

### WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE CENSUS?

Transport topics on the Census included:

- mode of travel to work
- name and address of workplace attended
- number of motor vehicles.

For more information view 2901.0 - Census Dictionary

### HOW IS THIS INFORMATION USED?

Information about where people work and how they get to work helps to inform the policy and planning of road infrastructure and public transportation.

This information also tells us how many people are likely to be in an area during business hours. This helps ensure public services are available where people are most likely to access them during the day.

The information on the number of motor vehicles, in conjunction with other data, can be used for town and transport planning.

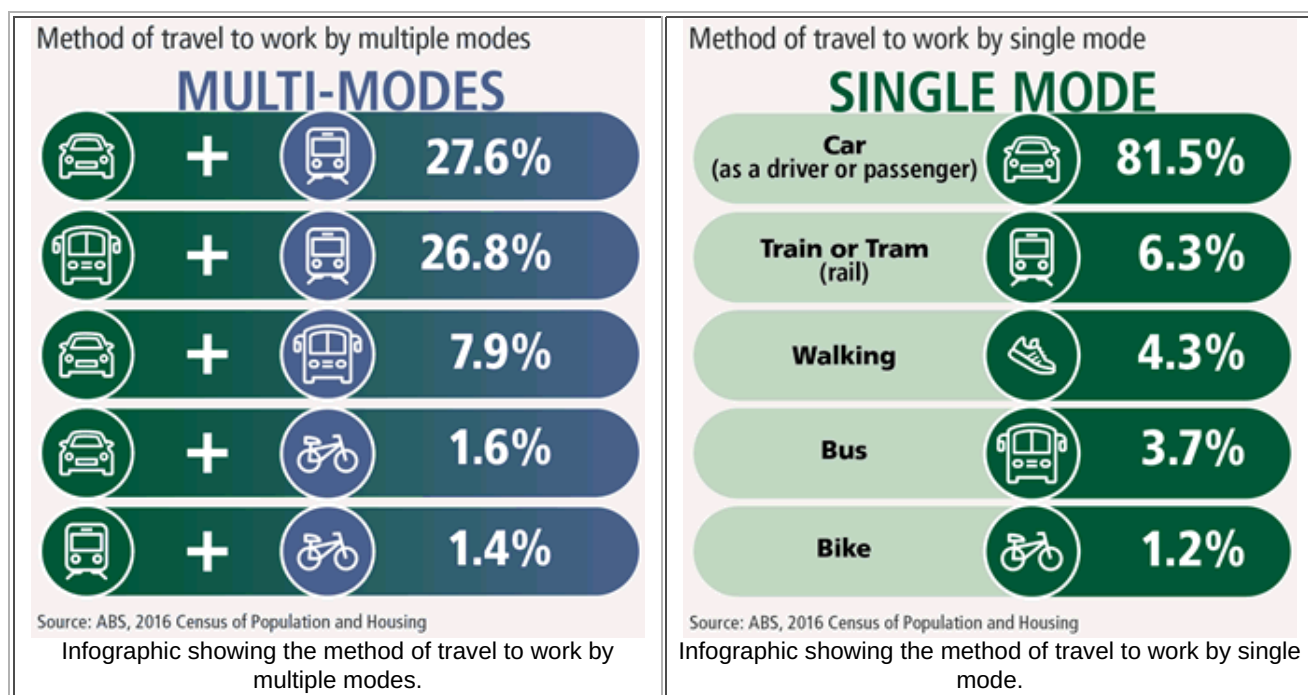
### THE QUESTIONS ASKED ON THE 2016 CENSUS

- How did the person get to work on Tuesday, 9 August 2016?
- For the main job held last week, what was the employer's business name?
- For the main job held last week, what was the person's workplace address?
- How many registered motor vehicles owned or used by residents of this dwelling were garaged or parked at or near this dwelling on the night of Tuesday, 9 August 2016?

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 CENSUS ON TRANSPORT

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing





## STANDARDS

Place of work is coded using Destination Zones. Refer to POWP in the Census Dictionary.

For additional information, refer to:

8000.0 - Census of Population and Housing Destination Zones, August 2016

There are no standards used for defining the method of travel to work or the number of motor vehicles garaged.

## WHAT HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU ABOUT THE 2021 CENSUS?

The ABS has undertaken initial discussions and reviewed feedback from the 2016 Census in preparation for this consultation.

Feedback from stakeholders to date has indicated that journey to work is still a relevant and important topic to be included on the 2021 Census. However, we have heard that there is potential to enhance the response options to allow for a combination of walking with other transport and incorporating other emerging modes such as ride sharing.

Stakeholders have also raised the need for inclusion of journey to education data. The inclusion of this topic alongside journey to work would give an overall picture of major contributing activities on the road network, particularly during peak times in the morning.

Discussions have raised the relevance of collecting motor vehicles garaged information particularly as it is anticipated that administrative data sources could provide this information. This question may be removed from the Census in 2021.

This consultation is an opportunity for you to provide your views on what transport information should be collected on the 2021 Census.

## OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC:

The ABS collects data on transport through a number of different collections. Listed below is a selection of ABS publications. For the comprehensive list of ABS products, please visit the ABS

website.

#### 9208.0 - Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Australia, 12 months ended 30 June 2016

This publication presents estimates of motor vehicle use in Australia between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016. This survey is taken from a sample of vehicles registered in Australia during this period. It contains statistics on passenger vehicle, motor cycle, truck and bus use for characteristics such as kilometres travelled, tonne kilometres and fuel consumption.

#### 9309.0 - Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 Jan 2017

This annual publication presents statistics relating to vehicles which were registered with a motor vehicle registration authority (MVR) at 31 January 2017.

What are your transport data needs? Share your views with us on the most useful information we should collect in the 2021 Census. Make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS Consultation Hub.

## Cultural diversity

### CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on cultural diversity.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au)

### WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE CENSUS?

Cultural diversity topics on the Census included:

- Australian citizenship
- country of birth
- country of birth of parents
- year of arrival in Australia
- main language other than English spoken at home
- proficiency in spoken English
- ancestry
- religious affiliation.

For more information view 2901.0 - Census Dictionary

### HOW IS THIS INFORMATION USED?

Understanding the characteristics and origins of all people who call Australia home plays a role in policy and service development. Questions in the Census about citizenship, country of birth, ancestry and when people arrived in Australia provide insights into the nature of our diverse society. For example, knowing which languages are spoken and having information on whether people speak English, and how well, makes it easier to plan for English language programs and translation/interpreter services. Special interest groups, such as religious groups and organisations, also use Census information to assess the need for, and location of, religious based schools, hospitals, community services and homes for the elderly.

If you'd like to explore more about the religions included on the Census form, and why it doesn't list

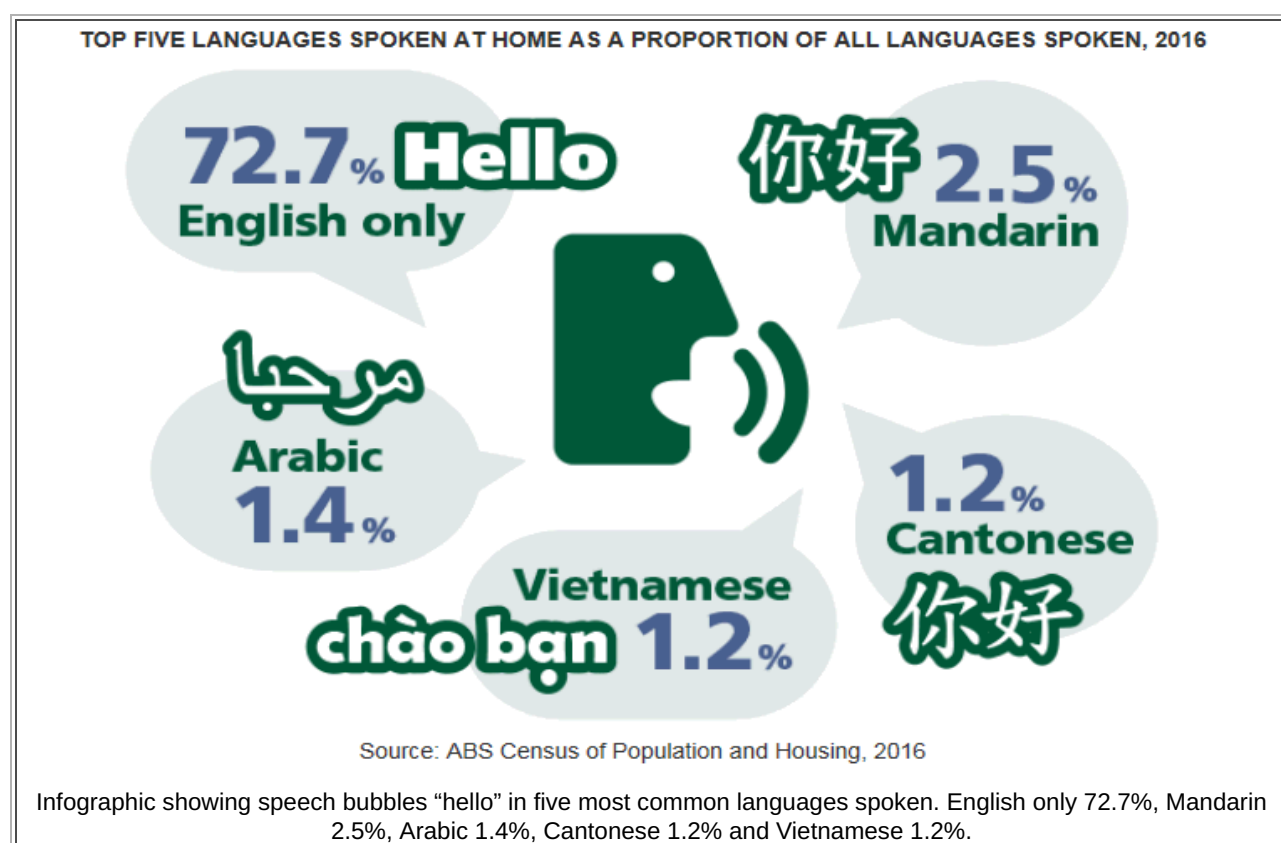
all religions, read our Religion topic brief.

## THE QUESTIONS ASKED ON THE 2016 CENSUS

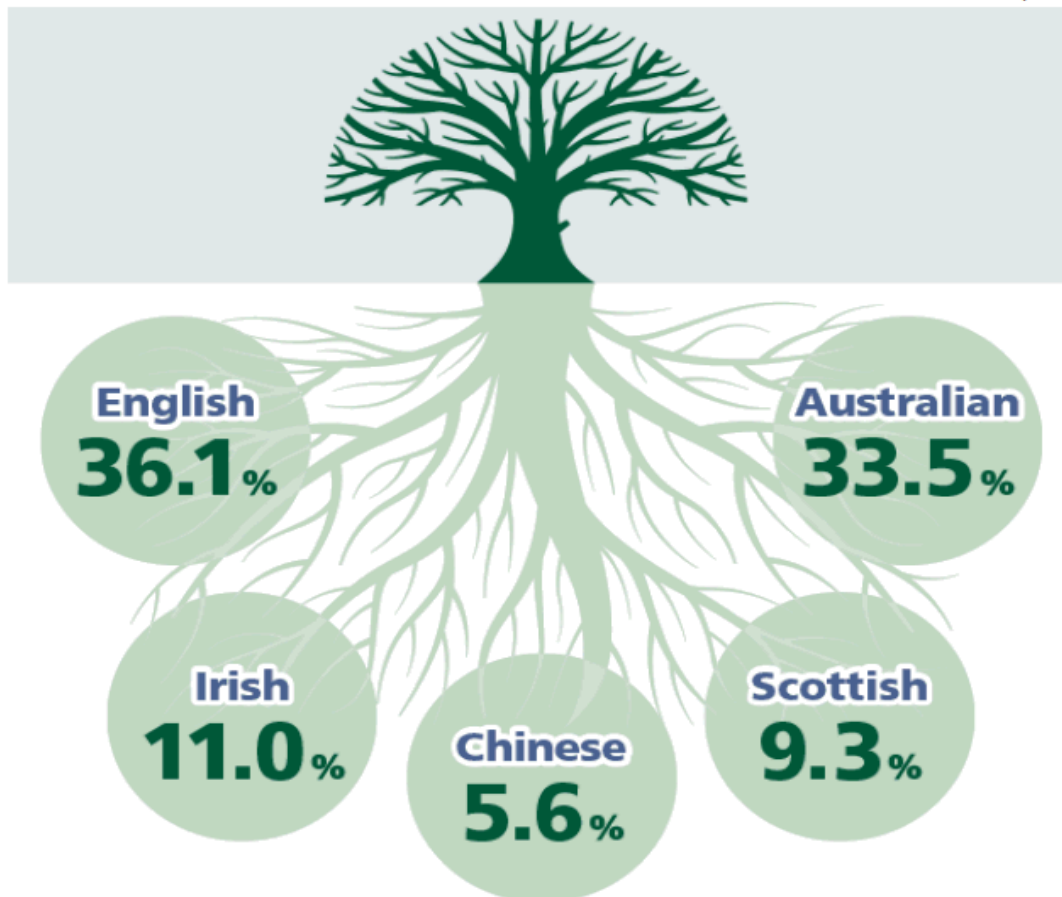
- Is the person an Australian citizen?
- In which country was the person born?
- In which country was the person's father born?
- In which country was the person's mother born?
- In what year did the person first arrive in Australia to live here for one year or more?
- Does the person speak a language other than English at home?
- How well does the person speak English?
- What is the person's ancestry?
- What is the person's religion?

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 CENSUS ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Source: 2071.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia - Stories from the Census, 2016



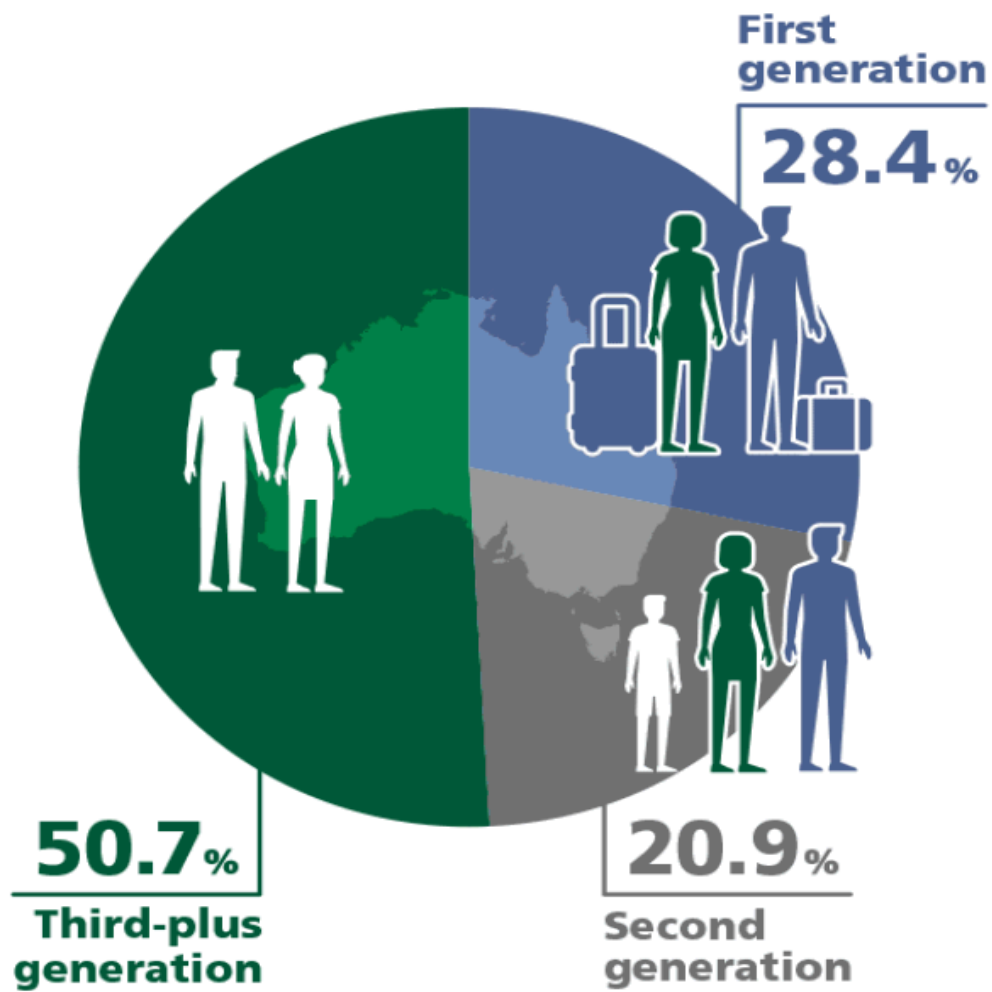
TOP FIVE REPORTED ANCESTRIES AS A PROPORTION OF ALL REPORTED ANCESTRIES, 2016



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2016

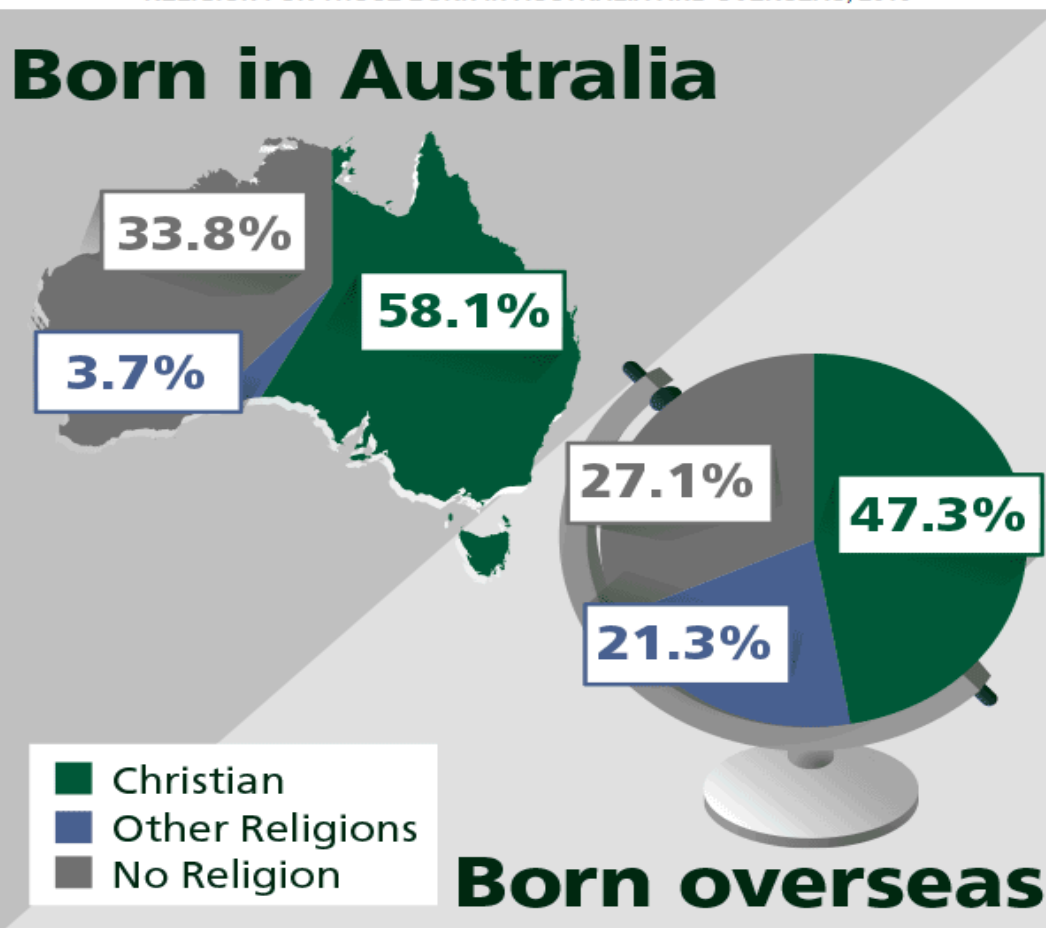
Infographic showing family tree representing the top 5 listed ancestries. English 36.1%, Australian 33.5%, Irish 11.0%, Scottish 9.3% and Chinese 5.6%.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD OR MORE GENERATION AUSTRALIANS, 2016



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2016

Infographic showing proportion of first, second and third-plus generations of Australians.



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2016

Infographic showing religion for those born in Australia and overseas, 2016.

## STANDARDS

A number of standards are used by the ABS to classify statistics relating to cultural diversity:

1200.0.55.010 - Australian Citizenship Standard, 2014, Version 1.2

1200.0.55.004 - Country of Birth Standard, 2016

1200.0.55.007 - Year of Arrival Standard, 2014, Version 1.4

1200.0.55.005 - Language Standards, 2016

1200.0.55.009 - Ancestry Standard, 2014, Version 2.1

1200.0.55.003 - Religious Affiliation Standard, 2016

## WHAT HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU ABOUT THE 2021 CENSUS?

The ABS has undertaken initial discussions and reviewed feedback from the 2016 Census in preparation for this consultation.

Feedback from stakeholders has indicated that cultural diversity of Australian society remains a very relevant and important topic for inclusion on the Census. Specifically, we have heard how expanded data on this topic could help to better understand new and emerging priorities to meet national data needs.

Emerging themes include:

- Adding a question on visa type has been suggested by some stakeholders. Persons on temporary visas such as international students and skilled temporary workers make up

- a large and growing proportion of the population.
- Currently on the Census we ask for country of birth of a person's father and mother. The ABS is considering whether gender neutral phrasing may be more appropriate.

This consultation is an opportunity for you to provide your views on what cultural diversity information should be collected on the 2021 Census.

## **WHY IS MY COUNTRY OF BIRTH, RELIGION, ANCESTRY OR LANGUAGE NOT LISTED AS AN OPTION?**

Unfortunately we cannot list every option without the questions becoming too long. The available options for selection in these questions include the top six to ten most frequent responses by people from the previous Census. This makes it easy for the majority of respondents to select an option.

If your country, religion or language is not within the option, the Census form includes the ability to type or write in the answer that applies to you.

## **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC**

The ABS collects information on country of birth, citizenship and visa for people migrating to Australia, and produces annual population estimates for people born in each country. All household surveys including the General Social Survey, National Health Survey and Survey of Education and Work collect country of birth details of individuals. Surveys like the Characteristics of Recent Migrants are more focussed on the labour force outcomes of migrants who arrived in the last ten years.

Listed below is a selection of ABS publications. For the comprehensive list of ABS products, please visit the ABS website.

### **3412.0 - Migration, Australia**

This publication includes information on international migration into and out of Australia, internal migration within Australia and information on overseas-born residents of Australia. It is updated every year.

### **6250.0.25.002 - Characteristics of Recent Migrants**

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey is conducted every three years. It provides a range of information on the labour force status of recent migrants and temporary residents and includes visa category, residency status, language spoken and proficiency in English. The survey was last conducted throughout Australia in November 2016.

### **3418.0 - Personal Income of Migrants, Australia, 2009-10**

For the first time, this release presents detailed information on the sources of personal income that migrants received for 2009-10 including employee income, own unincorporated business income, investment income, other income and foreign income by characteristics such as visa stream, applicant status and location of visa application.

### **4159.0 - General Social Survey**

The General Social Survey (GSS) is conducted every four years and collects a range of demographic information including country of birth and year of arrival. The GSS aims to provide an understanding of the multi-dimensional nature of relative advantage and disadvantage across the population, and to facilitate reporting on and monitoring of people's opportunities to participate fully in society. The survey was last conducted in 2014.

### **4364.0.55.001 - National Health Survey**

The National Health Survey is conducted every three years and was designed to collect a range of

information about the health of Australians. Language and Ancestry are also collected on National Health Survey. The survey asks: language mainly spoken at home, proficiency in English, ancestry and country of birth of both mother and father. The survey was last conducted in 2014-15 and is currently in the field for 2017-18.

#### 6227.0 - Education and Work

The Survey of Education and Work (SEW) ask respondents for their country of birth, year of arrival, residency status and student visa status. The survey was last conducted throughout Australia in May 2017.

#### 4235.0 - Qualifications and Work

The Qualifications and Work publication presents detailed information about the educational history of people and the relevance of each qualification to their working lives.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

#### 2900.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the Census and Census Data, Australia, 2016

This publication provides information to help people use and interpret 2016 Census data. The articles 'Understanding ancestry in the Norfolk Island population' and 'Ancestry' include additional information on specific concepts relevant to the topics outlined in this brief.

What are your cultural diversity data needs? Share your views with us on the most useful information we should collect in the 2021 Census. Make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS Consultation Hub.

## **Religion**

### **RELIGION**

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on religion.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au)

### **WHY DOES THE CENSUS COLLECT RELIGION?**

A person's religion is asked as part of a suite of questions on cultural diversity and has been collected since the first national Census in 1911. This is the only optional question on the Census. Information gathered is used by religious organisations and government agencies to plan service delivery and encompass religious practices within community services, such as education, hospitals and aged care facilities.

### **WHAT HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU ABOUT RELIGION?**

During the 2016 Census topic review process, many submissions recommended changes to the religion topic. The issues raised in the submissions were very similar with most commenting that the current question wording assumes everybody has a religion. Suggestions made and investigated for 2016 included using two part filter questions, changes or additions to wording, and placing the 'no religion' response as first in the list of options. The suggestions were considered via user consultation, testing and review of the approaches taken in other countries. For 2016, the ABS responded to feedback by moving 'no religion' to be the first response category in the question,



which was consistent with the approach already taken in a number of other countries.

Feedback has also been received on the standard classification of religious groups, including suggestions for further identification of the broad religious groups of Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam. Changes of this type would require an update to the standard and classification used for processing Census data, rather than the question asked. The standard and associated classification will be reviewed during 2018/19 and will reference feedback from stakeholders, and evaluation of the 2016 Census data.

For more information on the standards and classifications for statistics relating to religion refer to the following publications.

1200.0.55.003 - Religious Affiliation Standard, 2016

1266.0 - Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups, 2016

Specific feedback or queries on the religious affiliation standard can be provided at any time via [standards@abs.gov.au](mailto:standards@abs.gov.au).

## WHY IS MY RELIGION NOT LISTED ON THE CENSUS FORM?

While it is possible to report any of the vast number of religions practised in Australia, it would be difficult to list them all on the form without the question becoming too long and burdensome. Each time the Census form is designed, the most common responses from the previous Census are listed on the form, while a write-in response is available for all other religions. This makes it easy for the majority of people to select an option rather than having to type or write a response (see the example from the paper form). This same approach is used for questions on country of birth, ancestry and language spoken at home.

### 2016 Census Household Form question on religious affiliation

<b>19 What is the person's religion?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Answering this question is <b>OPTIONAL</b>.</li><li>• Examples of 'Other': LUTHERAN, SALVATION ARMY, JUDAISM, TAOISM, HUMANISM.</li><li>• Remember to mark the box like this: <input type="checkbox"/></li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> No religion <input type="checkbox"/> Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Anglican (Church of England) <input type="checkbox"/> Uniting Church <input type="checkbox"/> Presbyterian <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhism <input type="checkbox"/> Islam <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Orthodox <input type="checkbox"/> Baptist <input type="checkbox"/> Hinduism  Other (please specify) <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>																																								

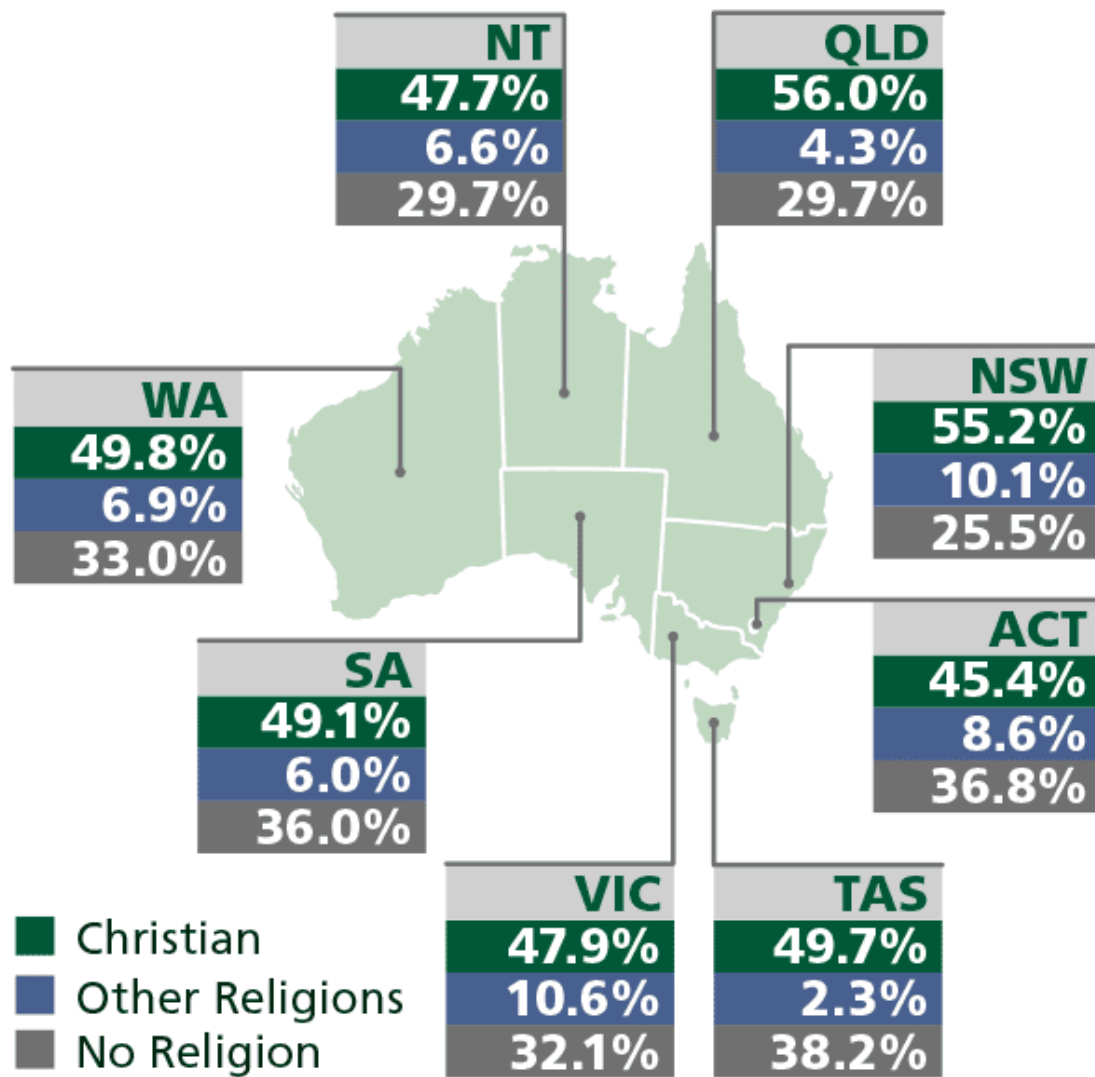
If a person does not identify with any of the options or would like to specifically name the religion they practice, they can provide more information in the 'Other (please specify)' box.

The standards and classification on religious groups is then used to prepare responses in a consistent way. The 2016 Census collected information on close to 150 different religions. Almost 10 percent of people who responded to the religion question in 2016 provided an unlisted religion.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 CENSUS ON RELIGION

Source: 2071.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia - Stories from the Census, 2016

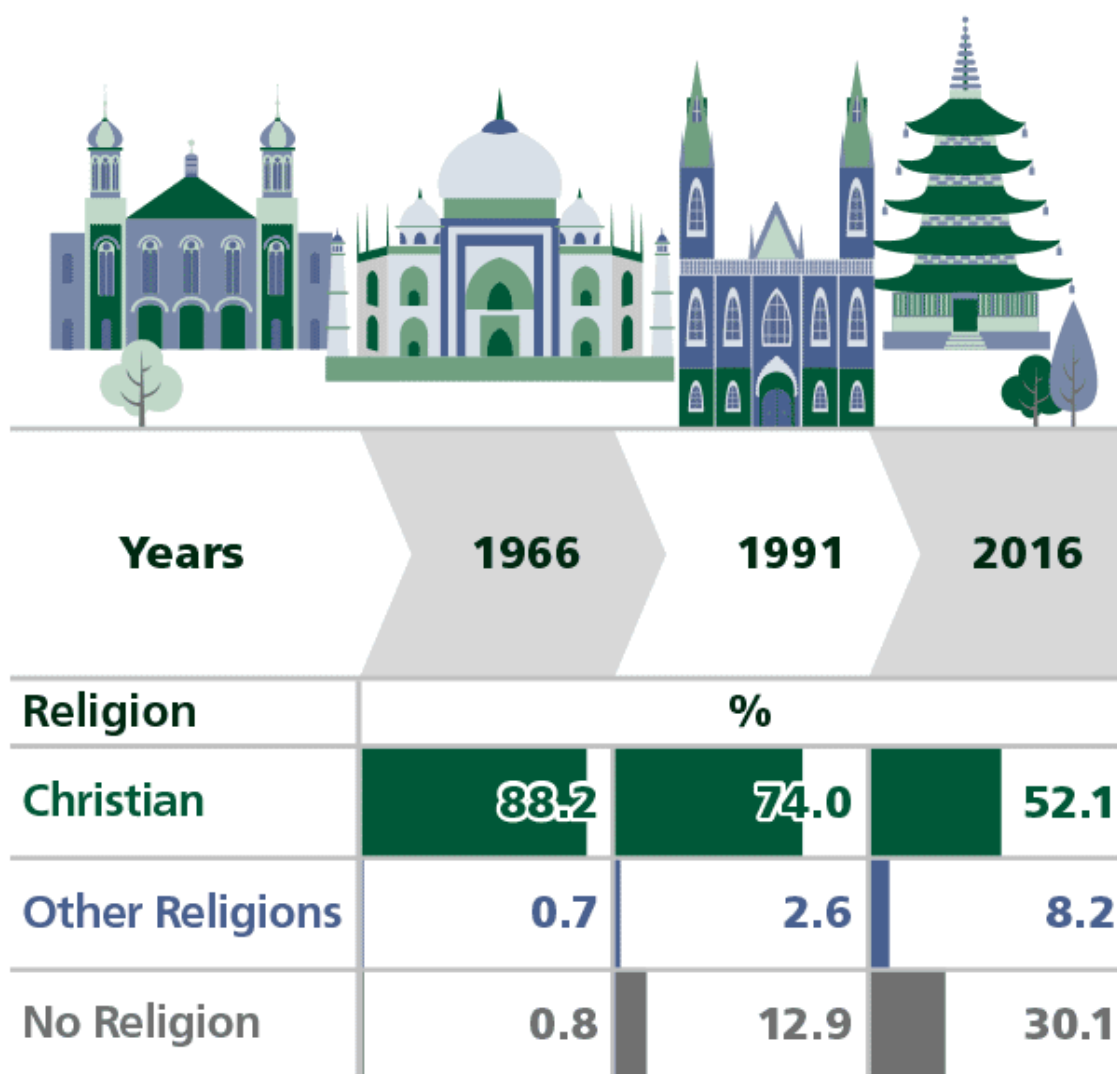
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION WITHIN THE STATES AND TERRITORIES, 2016



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2016

Infographic showing affiliation with Christian, other religions and no religion in each of the states and territories in 2016.

# RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OVER TIME - 1966, 1991, 2016(a)(b)



(a) [Other religions](#) includes: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and other religions.

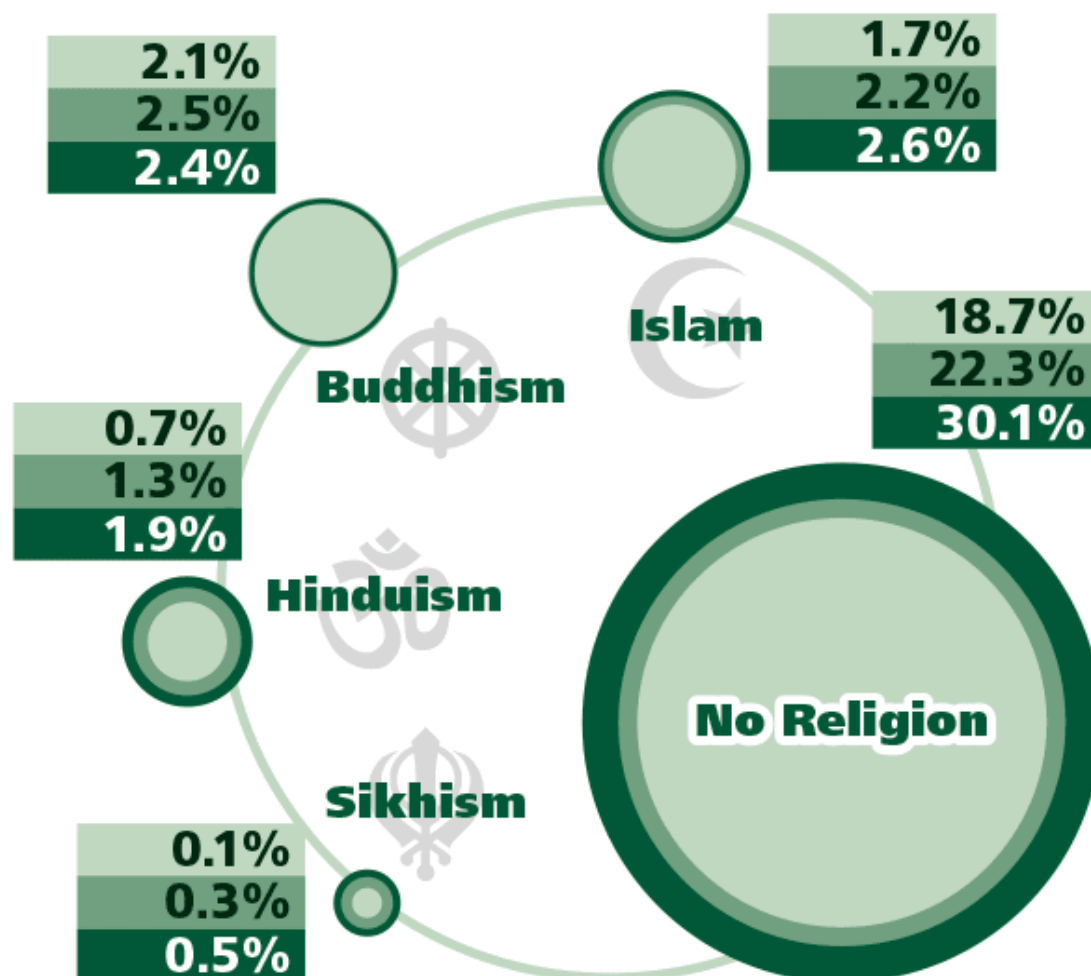
(b) No Religion includes: Secular Beliefs (e.g. Atheism) and Other Spiritual Beliefs (e.g. New Age).

Source: Census of Population and Housing 1966, 1991, 2016

Infographic showing proportion reporting Christian, Other religions and No religion in 1966, 1991 and 2016.

EMERGING MAJOR RELIGIONS(a), 2006 - 2016

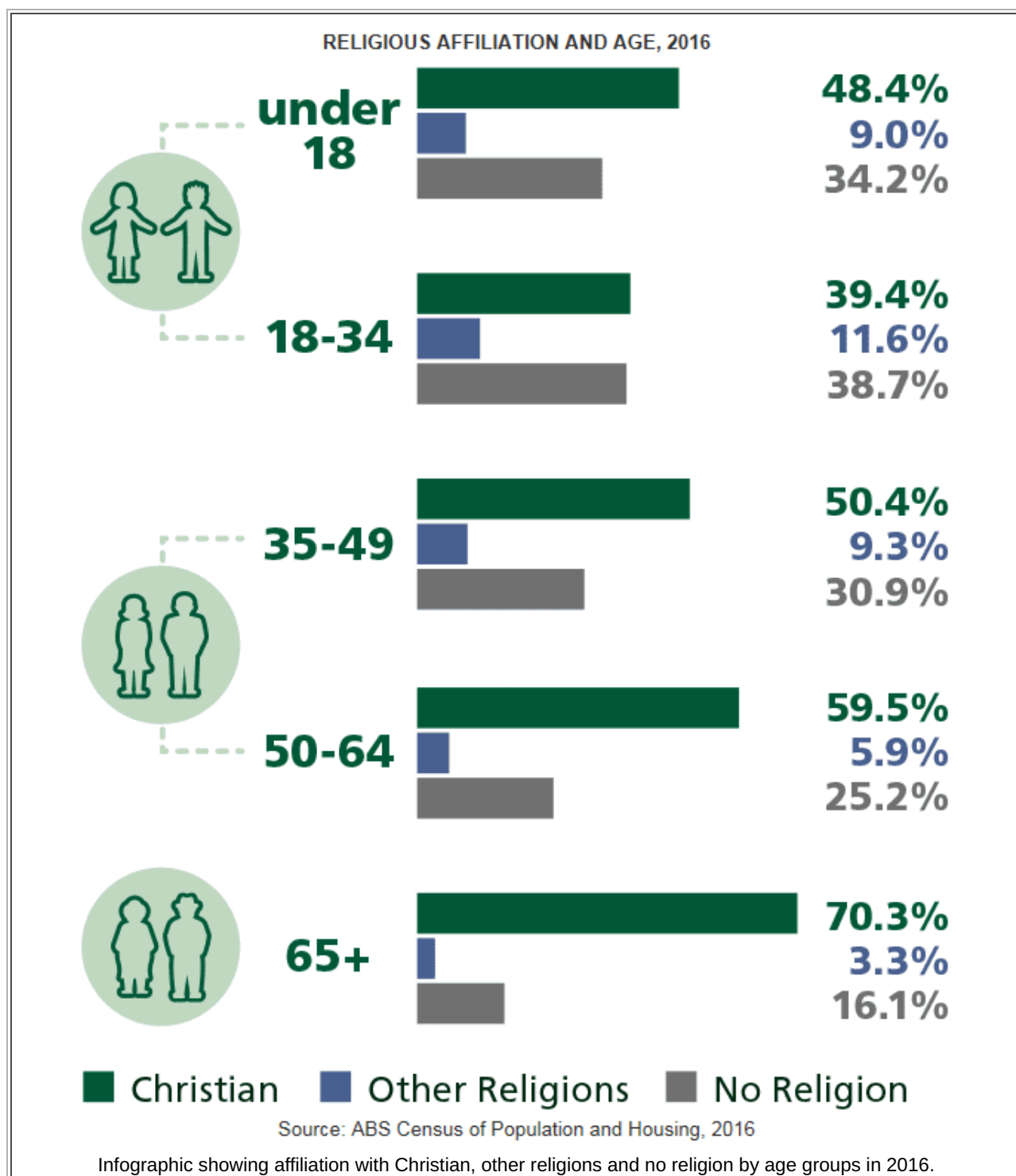
2006 2011 2016



(a) The percentages are as a proportion of the total population

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2006, 2011, 2016

Infographic showing proportion reporting Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism in 2006, 2011 and 2016.



To better understand the data needs in regard to religion, we encourage you to share your views. Make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS Consultation Hub.

## Other topics

### OTHER TOPICS

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census. The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au)

The ABS has undertaken initial discussions and reviewed feedback from the 2016 Census in preparation for this consultation. Stakeholders have identified a number of emerging data needs.

Where these fit within existing topics the feedback is incorporated in the relevant topic brief. Other emerging data needs are identified below.

## **HEALTH**

### **WHAT HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU ABOUT THE 2021 CENSUS?**

There are currently no health questions collected on the Census, however the inclusion of a health question has been raised as a potential information need. A number of possible topics were suggested including long-term health conditions, self-assessed health status and smoking status, with most stakeholders preferring the long-term health conditions question.

Stakeholders have expressed an interest in getting data on people with certain long-term health conditions at small geographic areas and for smaller population groups. It has been suggested information from the Census would enable targeting of programs and resources to assist in the prevention and treatment of chronic disease.

### **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC**

The ABS collects data on health through a number of different collections. Listed below is a selection of ABS publications. For the comprehensive list of ABS products, please visit the ABS website.

#### **4364.0.55.001 - National Health Survey: First Results, 2014-15**

The National Health Survey collects a range of information about the health of Australians, including:

- prevalence of long-term health conditions
- health risk factors such as smoking, overweight and obesity, alcohol consumption and exercise
- use of health services, such as consultations with health practitioners, and actions people have recently taken for their health
- demographic and socio-economic characteristics.

#### **4727.0.55.001 - Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2012-13**

This survey provides information on a range of key health indicators for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Topics covered include long-term health conditions; health risk factors; and selected social and emotional wellbeing indicators and health measurements.

#### **4326.0 - National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing: Summary of Results, 2007**

This survey provided information on the prevalence of selected lifetime and 12-month mental disorders by three major disorder groups: Anxiety disorders (e.g. Social Phobia), Affective disorders (e.g. Depression) and Substance Use disorders (e.g. Alcohol Harmful Use). It also provided information on the level of impairment, the health services used for mental health problems, physical conditions, social networks and caregiving, as well as demographic and socio-economic characteristics.

## **TECHNICAL AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

#### **4363.0.55.001 - Australian Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2011-13**

This publication contains information about the 2011-13 Australian Health Survey, including the questionnaire, survey objectives, methods and design; survey content; data quality and interpretation; and information about the availability of results and comparability with previous surveys.

#### 4363.0 - National Health Survey: Users' Guide, 2014-15

This publication contains details about the 2014-15 National Health Survey (NHS). It includes information about survey objectives, the development process, content of the survey, and the concepts, methods and procedures used in the collection of data and derivation of estimates.

#### 4327.0 - National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing: Users' Guide, 2007

This publication contains information about the concepts and methods used in sampling, data collection and processing of the 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing. Also included is a complete list of output data items and associated material to assist users in specifying data requirements.

## **AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE INDICATOR**

### **WHAT HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU ABOUT THE 2021 CENSUS?**

A data need which has continued to be raised is gaining an understanding of the population who have previously served, or are currently serving in the Australian Defence Force. Understanding the demographic characteristics of this population, including where they live and their social and economic circumstances would allow for better service planning and delivery.

### **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC**

The Department of Veterans' Affairs website has several research and study publications covering both health and social areas of interest. This selection includes Australian Veterans and War Widows – Your lives, your needs 2006. This survey has a broad scope, covering many aspects of veterans' health and wellness, including lifestyle choices, levels of independence, health status and the use of community services.

Share your views with us on the most useful information we should collect in the 2021 Census. Make your submission to our review of 2021 Census topics at the ABS Consultation Hub.

## **How to participate**

### **HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

#### **HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN THE TOPIC REVIEW**

The consultation to review the 2021 Census topics is seeking input from the community to inform the topics to be collected in the 2021 Census. This will be used by the ABS to make recommendations to the Australian Government on whether the Census requires new topics, changes to existing topics or the removal of existing topics.

The review will include consultation with interested parties and a public submission process. From 3 April to 30 June 2018 you can share your views via the ABS Consultation Hub at [consult.abs.gov.au](http://consult.abs.gov.au). Submissions should be made on the online form. If you are unable to complete the online form for any reason, there is also an option to download the form via the Downloads tab, and to provide your submission by mail or email.

#### **FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE MAKING A SUBMISSION**

When assessing the submissions received, the ABS will need to consider characteristics of the Census which impact on the overall complexity and acceptability of the form, and the complete set

of topics contained within. These characteristics are a primary consideration in the design and testing of the Census form and are heavily influenced by best practice procedures in questionnaire design from experts nationally and internationally. They include the following:

- The Census needs to be available in an online and paper form mode. While there has been a continued increase in the number of households responding online, there is still likely to be a significant number of households where the paper form is the preferred or only accessible option. Smart design of the online form can make it easier for respondents to be presented with relevant questions only, and can allow for checks and edits which improve the quality of response and make the form easier to complete. However, the requirement for comparability between responses given on the paper form with those on the online form needs to be further explored.
- The Census is collected from every person in Australia; there is a need to consider the respondent burden in terms of the number and complexity of questions asked. Research has shown that the quality of responses can be impacted if the forms become too long and or too complex.
- Information is collected by a person or people within a household answering the questions themselves, through what is termed 'self-enumeration' or 'self-completion'. This is different to answering questions with the assistance of an interviewer. Topics that require detailed explanation to ensure accurate answers are unlikely to be answered correctly. Questions that are controversial or could cause adverse reactions may also not be answered correctly. Such questions could also adversely affect the quality of other responses.
- The Census form may be completed by one household member on behalf of others. This can impact a person's willingness to disclose personal details about themselves, or may result in a person completing the form making assumptions on behalf of another householder rather than asking them directly. This impact can be heightened for questions that may be considered controversial or intrusive.

Some of the above characteristics are reflected in the assessment criteria, while some are unique to how the Census is packaged together as a whole. While the ABS will endeavour to be transparent in how these characteristics impact on recommendations being made for change, it is also worth considering their impact when preparing a submission.

## **MAKING A TOPIC SUBMISSION**

Suggestions for 2021 Census topics will be considered using criteria to identify if the Census can best meet data needs and to establish the relative priority of topic changes suggested.

It is important to note that in determining your proposal on changes to Census topics, some of the data collected in the Census is critical to retain for key decision making as well as to provide an understanding of changes to the population over time. This needs to be considered before identifying topics for change or removal. That said, submissions are not required in support of retaining topics collected in Census unless changes have been flagged in the briefs. It is also important to ensure a balance between adding new topics and not creating an additional burden on the Australian community to provide this information.

When making a submission via the ABS Consultation Hub you will be required to consider and address the following assessment criteria:

- the topic is of current national importance
- there is a need for data from a Census of the whole population
- the topic can be accurately collected in a form which the household completes themselves
- the topic would be acceptable to Census respondents



- the topic can be collected efficiently
- there is likely to be a continuing need for data on the topic in the following Census
- there are no other suitable alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

Before completing your submission, it is recommended that you consider the topic information contained in this publication. Further detail of the assessment criteria, and prompts to help build a stronger submission, are included on the Downloads tab. There are also step by step instructions on lodging a submission and frequently asked questions available on the Explanatory Notes tab.

## **BUILDING A STRONG SUBMISSION BY WORKING TOGETHER**

The ABS appreciates the work required to produce high quality submissions and will carefully consider submissions based on the demonstrated evidence provided. Therefore it's best to provide one, high quality submission rather than encourage multiple submissions on the same topic.

Communities and organisations may want to work together to discuss their data needs and provide a consolidated submission to strengthen the evidence for their position.

## **Process after submissions close**

### **PROCESS AFTER SUBMISSIONS CLOSE**

After the consultation closes, the ABS will commence assessment of the topic changes suggested in submissions using the assessment criteria. This will be accompanied by targeted stakeholder engagement and an extensive testing process to refine options and understand the quality impacts of changes. Where permission has been given to publish full submissions, they will also be available for others to see on the ABS Consultation Hub after 30 June 2018.

The ABS will publish a paper summarising the preliminary topic recommendations emerging from the consultation. Discussions will continue with data users as the recommendations are further developed and refined.

Recommendations for the topics to be collected by the 2021 Census will then be submitted for a decision by the Australian Government. Refinement and finalisation of the content will continue and a final decision will be published prior to the 2021 Census.

## **About this Release**

The purpose of this publication is to provide initial information about the 2021 Census of Population and Housing. It focuses primarily on the review of the Census topics and details how to provide your input on what data should be collected in 2021.

## **History of Changes**

**This document was added or updated on 16/05/2018.**

**14/05/2018** - Topic pages have been updated to include links to Census Concepts documents in the publication, 2900.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the Census and Census Data, Australia, 2016. The Census topic pages that include these links are Households and families; Income and work; Housing; Location; and Cultural diversity.

# Explanatory Notes

## How to lodge a submission

### HOW TO LODGE A SUBMISSION

To express your views on what should be collected in the 2021 Census, including suggestions on new topics to be added or existing topics to be removed or modified, you should make a formal submission by 30 June 2018.

The submission will require basic contact details about you or your organisation as well as evidence to support your suggested changes. The information provided in submissions will be assessed across seven criteria, though responses do not need to cover all criteria.

Where relevant, we encourage you to work with organisations with similar suggestions to put in a joint submission. There is a question on the form to acknowledge the contribution of other organisations to the submission. Note that the recommendation and prioritisation of topics for the 2021 Census will be determined by the quality and evidence base of the overall responses to the criteria, rather than the number of submissions received on each topic.

It is not recommended that submissions include suggestions on question wording as this will be explored at a later date as recommendations are refined.

### HOW TO COMPLETE A SUBMISSION:

1. Go to the ABS Consultation Hub.
2. Choose the 'Consultation - Review of 2021 Census Topics'.
3. Read the information on the Overview page. A Microsoft Word version of the Submission form is available at the bottom of the Overview page to use for information and drafting prior to making a submission.
4. To access the online submission form click on 'Enter consultation'.
5. Complete the required sections – 'Consent to Publish' and 'Contact details'.
6. Write a short summary of the views to be expressed in the submission. Choose the topic of your submission, and open the link to the supporting topic brief for information and context.
7. Give reasons to support your views on topic suggestions or changes by responding to the seven assessment criteria. It is not mandatory to respond to all criteria.
8. Before submitting your response, use the 'First' button to review all your answers. Once you have pressed 'Submit Response' you will not be able to make changes.
9. If your organisation requires you to make your submission on letterhead or with your leader's endorsement, you can upload a PDF or Microsoft Word file at the end of the process.

10. Press 'Submit Response' button and receive confirmation of your submission and a PDF copy of your submission by email.

**If you want to submit your views another way:**

Download Microsoft Word version of the consultation questions, complete and email to [census.content@abs.gov.au](mailto:census.content@abs.gov.au) or mail back to:

Census Topic Review  
GPO Box 9817  
Brisbane QLD 4001

**AUTHORISATION TO USE CONTENT FROM SUBMISSIONS**

Information provided in the submissions will be used for reporting purposes related to the consultation and for development of recommendations for 2021 Census topics. However no reference to individual people who have been involved in lodging the submission will be made. In the interests of transparency, the ABS will make submissions publicly available after the close of the process. If you do not want your submission to be made public, please indicate this in the consent to publish section. If your submission identifies or names an organisation or individual other than yourself, please consider obtaining their consent prior to agreeing for the ABS to publish your submission.

## **FAQs**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Is there another way I can make a submission?**

A downloadable Microsoft Word document of the submission form is available on the Overview page of the consultation. Responses can then be easily copied and pasted from your Microsoft Word document into the response boxes on the online submission form. Please note images cannot be copied. It is our preference that submissions are made through the online consultation hub, but if this isn't possible the completed Microsoft Word submission form can be sent back by email to [census.content@abs.gov.au](mailto:census.content@abs.gov.au) or by mail to:

Census Topic Review  
GPO Box 9817  
Brisbane QLD 4001

**Can I get an extension if I cannot meet the submission due date?**

No, the submission closes on 30 June 2018 at 11.59pm AEST.

**Can I send in a letter without addressing the assessment criteria?**

Decisions relating to the 2021 Census Topics will be made based on responses to the assessment criteria. To ensure your suggested changes are carefully considered it is recommended that you address the criteria as completely as possible. You may send this in by mail if you prefer. You can also attach a covering letter endorsing your submission from your organisation's leader if required.

**Will the ABS be consulting on other changes to the Census?**

The ABS is focused on collecting your view on Census topics at this time. As we work towards 2021, the ABS will share our approach to how people can participate in the Census, our approach to ensuring privacy and security of information and how we provide the final Census results. To get updates on the ABS and our Census planning follow us at @ABSstats or visit the Census home page.

### **How do I complete multiple submissions?**

Complete a new submission for each. You will find a link back to the ABS Consultation Hub at the end of your submission.

### **I have multiple people that need to contribute to this submission. How can we all complete our parts?**

Send the Microsoft Word submission form to multiple people, and have one person collate and complete your submission. You can copy and paste from Microsoft Word into the response boxes OR give the consultation return code URL (that you receive after pressing the 'Save your response and return later' button), to other contributors. However please note that this means that any responses already completed can be overwritten.

### **Am I able to make a submission on behalf of others?**

Yes, we encourage you to complete joint submissions. There is a question in the submission form that asks for the names of organisations you have collaborated with. You should consider seeking their permission prior to giving consent to publish your submission.

### **Can I submit anonymously?**

No, the contact details are required. These are used if we need to contact you during the submission process or while we are assessing the submissions. They will not be publicly released.

## **USING THE ONLINE SUBMISSION FORM**

### **Can I make a submission for a topic that is not included in your selection list?**

Yes, select other topic that relates to your areas of interest and then specify. You will still need to address the assessment criteria in your submission.

### **Will my submission be considered if I do not answer all questions?**

Yes. While there are some required questions that need to be answered to progress through the form, it is not a requirement to answer all assessment criteria questions. Topics will not be assessed at an individual submission level, but rather assessed on the overall responses to the criteria.

### **How long should my responses be?**

There are no word limits on your responses. Your responses should be comprehensive enough to address the criterion, but concise.

### **What do these buttons mean?**

#### ***Save and come back later***

If you would like to finish your response later, press and enter your email address. You will be sent an email containing a unique link that will let you return to edit and submit your response.

#### ***First***

This takes you back to the first numbered page of the submission form. All responses you have entered will be saved.

### ***Continue***

This will save your responses and progress to the next page. You will not progress if you have not completed all responses marked 'Required'.

### **Can I partially complete my submission and return to finish it later?**

Yes, use the 'Save and come back later' button. This feature allows respondents to return to the consultation at a later date without losing the information they've already entered as part of their response. This feature is not available for responses that have already been completed and submitted.

Please note that the user must have cookies enabled in their web browser to use this feature.

**Step 1:** In order to use the 'Save and come back later' link, you will need to have completed any 'Required' answer fields on that page. At the bottom of the each page of survey questions, users can select the 'Save and come back later' button.

**Step 2:** You will then be asked to provide an email address on the following page. An email address entered here will not be stored for any longer than is necessary to attempt to send the email.

**Step 3:** Once the 'Save and Send Email' button is selected, you will be sent an email entitled 'Your consultation return code'. This contains a unique URL that will allow you to return to your partially completed response. This link will expire when the consultation closes.

### **Can I review my responses before I press the Submit Response button?**

Yes. If you press the 'First' button at the bottom of the page, you will be directed to the first page of your submission so you can progress through the form and review your saved responses. We encourage you to do this to ensure that you've adequately answered every question.

### **Can I make changes to my submission once I have submitted it?**

There is no way to access your submission once you have pressed the 'Submit Response' button. You can however, send an email regarding your changes to [census.content@abs.gov.au](mailto:census.content@abs.gov.au) before the consultation end date.

### **Can I receive a copy of my submission?**

Yes. At the end of your submission you will be asked to enter an email address to be sent a link to a PDF copy of your submission. You are able to forward this link to share your submission with others.

### **Will I receive feedback on my submission?**

No. You will not receive individual feedback on your submission. However, if you want to be notified when preliminary Census topic recommendations are published, please tick the box on the submit response page.